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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,706

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Nana, Nana, Nana, Nana, hey, hey, hey, Oh yeah

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Blair to scrap Lords reform

'Nuclear option' to save devolution

Michael White Political Editor

TONY Blair is poised to retreat from his commitment to the early abolition of voting rights for hereditary peers because senior Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs fear it might jeopardise

their commitment to Scottish and Welsh devolution. Instead, the threat to end the 700-year political rights of hereditary dynasties — along with their "club rights" to the magnificent facilities of the House of Lords — will be held over the heads of Conservative peers and their allies as a "nuclear weapon" to discourage disruption of a Blair government's devolution bills.

At the 1994 Labour conference, Mr Blair promised a quick, two-clause bill to break aristocratic power in Parliament as a symbol of Labour's radical intent. The newly established Lib-Lab committee, set up to coordinate plans for constitutional reform, has not yet decided on parliamentary tactics, which could include use of the Parliament Acts to overrule a Lords veto if they fail to negotiate an acceptable package. Some peers and MPs have been warning Mr Blair that the Tory-dominated Lords will thwart him unless he gets rid of hereditary peers. But they look doomed to disap-

pointment, even though Labour is willing to offer up to 50 life peerages to active hereditary peers, including John Major's ally, Lord Cranborne, leader of the Lords and heir to a 400-year-old title. Under the terms of the 1945 Salisbury Convention — drafted by Lord Cranborne's grandfather — Tory peers have promised not to block measures contained in a winning Labour manifesto, such as devolution. But they admit they cannot control many of the 770 hereditaries, who are irregular attenders at Westminster. "Cranborne will be an absolute swine. He smiles a lot, but he's a reactionary," one

senior Labour peer said. "Contrary to popular belief, the Tory peers will fight dirty... If their position is threatened," said a Liberal Democrat. So daunting will it all prove that Robert Hazell, director of the independent Constitution Unit at University College London, this week proposed that a full-time minister be appointed by Mr Blair to ensure a credible reform package. Success requires "a combination of political will and technical skill," he warned. The Labour leader inherited from Neil Kinnock a pledge to legislate for devolved assemblies in Scotland and Wales within a year. Since then Labour has in-

serted a referendum process, designed to win public endorsement for its plans from Welsh and Scots voters and make it harder for Tory peers to block or subvert the bills, as happened in the protracted battle in 1978-79 that culminated in the Labour government's fall. But the referendums themselves will require legislation in the first months of a Blair government, ahead of the promised white paper and complex devolution bills that — on 1970's precedent — will take months to draft. "We cannot have a referendum bill and a Lords reform bill at the same time," Labour strategists confirm. Key fig-

ures like Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Jack Straw and George Robertson are leaning towards putting Lords reform on the back-burner, as are Liberal Democrats on the new Lib-Lab committee. The daunting complexity of Labour's plans has already forced Mr Blair to scale them down. There will be no early Bill of Rights, party sources confirm, but the European Convention on Human Rights will be incorporated into British law. What the Opposition leadership in the Lords, led by Lord Richard and Lord Irvine of Lairg, wants is a reform deal that the Tory peers will accept, as they have come close

to doing for 40 years. That would allow some active hereditary peers to stay on, augmented by newly retired cabinet ministers, but without the built-in Tory majority which means that Opposition and crossbench amendments to government bills are routinely defeated by hereditary peers. Tory peers are reluctant to be seen negotiating a package before the coming election because it would suggest they expect John Major to lose. Without a mutually acceptable deal, the Lords could block the two-clause bill — already circulating — for a year and then be overruled by the Parliament Acts.

For sale: One Caravaggio, missing for 400 years, valued at £15,000 — now worth £10m



A detail from Caravaggio's first known painting, A Young Boy Peeling an Apple, which reflects the realism and the innovative use of light and shade for which he was renowned

Detective work turns up long-lost masterpiece

John de St Jorre

AN oil painting which has been missing for 400 years and is attributed to the Italian Old Master Caravaggio could fetch up to \$15 million (£10 million) when it is auctioned in London next month. Philippe the auctioneers

originally attributed the picture in their summer catalogue to the "studio of Caravaggio" with an estimated price of £15,000 to £18,000. But since it was withdrawn from the sale, Maurizio Martini, an Italian art historian, has examined it and told Philippe: "I confirm that this painting is an

autograph version by Caravaggio, which would have been executed in Rome around 1593." It is the first time a work attributed to Caravaggio, renowned for his realism and innovative use of light and shade, has come up for auction since before the second world war. The picture, A Young Boy

Peeling an Apple, was due to be sold in Philippe's summer sale but was withdrawn on the advice of John T. Spike, an American expert on Caravaggio who lives in Florence. Seven versions of the work exist, but all of them are widely accepted as copies. The original was, until now, considered irretrievably lost. The picture, which features a half-length figure of a boy, dressed in a cotton shirt, peeling a green fruit, is the property of a private owner. It will be auctioned on December 10. Dr Spike flew to London

last month and after a detailed examination of the painting said it "displays the clarity and cohesiveness of an original painting by the young Caravaggio". Brian Koetser, director of Phillips Old Masters department, said: "We immediately decided to submit the painting to further studies and scientific tests." The discovery has put Philippe in a quandary over how to price the work. The Getty Museum in the United States recently put a reserve of \$15 million on a recent Caravaggio discovery, pending authentica-

tion. A series of technical tests has been carried out on the picture by Maurizio Seracini, a Florence-based scientist who specialises in diagnostic tests on Old Master paintings. Mr Seracini's tests concluded that the painting was executed not later than the mid-17th century; that none of the materials used was anomalous for the period in which Caravaggio worked; and small but significant adjustments were visible under the surface of the paint. This last point strongly indicates that the painting is an original.

British troops may go to Zaire

Ewen MacAskill in Bordeaux and Chris McGreal in Gisenyi

JOHN MAJOR, bowing to French pressure, raised the prospect of sending British troops to central Africa yesterday as tens of thousands of refugees become caught up in escalating warfare in eastern Zaire. With refugees falling victim to ethnic bloodletting, starvation and disease, Mr Major said in Bordeaux he would have to decide quickly whether to commit British troops to the crisis, adding: "I have no doubt we will have a role of some sort." British troops could be used to help ensure that humanitarian aid gets through to the refugees. At present, much of it is being stockpiled because of anarchy in Zaire. Mr Major, speaking at the Anglo-French summit after meeting President Jacques Chirac, said discussions would have to be held with the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity on what action to take. As the UN moved to authorise a multinational force to halt what the secretary-gen-

eral, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, called "genocide by starvation", it was clear the worst humanitarian crisis in central Africa since the 1994 Rwandan genocide was unfolding. Rwandans fleeing the rebel Tutsi advance dropped dead by the roadside from dehydration and exhaustion as an aid worker warned of an "apocalypse" caused by appalling sanitation and lack of food. Zairean aid workers who fled the fighting reported that Rwandan refugees were being killed in their thousands by thirst and poisonous gases on a lava field, Reuter reported from Nairobi. Zaireans accused the Hutu interahamwe militia of kidnapping dozens of their children to use as human shields against the rebels. After initially rejecting the idea of any military involvement, the British government softened its position during the two-day summit. France is pushing for the creation of a 5,000-strong UN-sponsored force and has said that up to 1,000 of its troops will be made available, provided other countries, notably the United States, match its commitment.

News blackout as Frank Sinatra deteriorates, suffering pneumonia and heart failure



Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE legendary singer Frank Sinatra, aged 80, is in a deteriorating condition in hospital, according to a television station in Los Angeles. Citing an inside source at Cedars Sinai medical centre in Beverly Hills, KCBS reported that Sinatra's room looked like the intensive care

unit, with monitoring devices and other equipment being used to treat him for pneumonia and heart failure. Both the hospital and Sinatra's public relations adviser, Susan Reynolds, declined to comment on his condition, saying this was at his request. Earlier in the week the hospital public relations officer, Ron Wise, was more forthcoming. Countering rumours that the man known as Ol' Blue Eyes was seriously ill

after entering hospital on November 1, Mr Wise said the singer was being treated for a pinched nerve and was in pain but moving about and talking. Nancy Sinatra later said her father did have a mild case of pneumonia. He had reportedly been eager to leave hospital but doctors demurred. Residents of Sinatra's hometown of Hoboken, New Jersey, on Sunday plan to

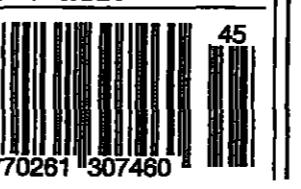
mark his birthplace by unveiling a plaque on the pavement outside what remains of the home where he was born on December 12, 1915. The house burned down years ago and all that remain are a brick wall, a door and an arch. Sinatra was inspired to become a singer by a Bing Crosby concert in 1933. Despite lacking musical training, he quickly made a name for himself.

Elvis like Just One of Those Things and I've Got You Under My Skin established his reputation as a complex balladeer with a style that also fitted in with jazz bands. He later starred in Hollywood films including From Here to Eternity (1953), for which he won an Oscar. He officially retired in 1971 but made return appearances into his 70s, despite forgetting the words and having to use a prompter.

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The Guardian Europe's Quality Newspaper

Lecturer in child sex row suspended

Luke Harding
A PSYCHOLOGY lecturer on race have led to a boycott of his lectures was last night suspended by his university after claiming in an internet newsletter that paedophile sex is harmless.

and his department into disrepute. Several of his colleagues formally complained following his remarks. The psychology lecturer, aged 52, caused a furore earlier this year with his book 'The Psychology of Paedophilia' which claimed black people had a lower IQ than whites. He urged low IQ single mothers to 'breed' with intelligent men to escape the poverty trap.

Lopsided trade deal would threaten fledgling democracy, claims South African
EU threat to Mandela

Sarah Pyle
BRITAIN and its European partners are threatening the future of South Africa's fledgling democracy, a senior member of Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress will claim today.

His visit to Britain, on the invitation of the Anti-Apartheid Movement's successor body, Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA), will prepare the ground for the deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, who is due to arrive in nine days' time.

under the free trade agreement and the 60 per cent of our exports they are willing to accept. 'It is insufficiently sensitive to the development needs of South and southern Africa and is not taking account of the process of transition and restructuring. It will have a very significant impact on unemployment.'

After consultations with member states, the EU mandate excluded 40 per cent of South African exports from negotiations. These include fresh fruit, processed fruit and wine - which South Africa regards as among its most internationally competitive products.

He added that such fears were groundless in view of the volume of South African exports likely to arrive in Europe. ACTSA said that the row had thrown the trade talks into crisis, and argued that South Africa - which wants a settlement by the EU's Dublin summit in December - has been denied the opportunity to compete on a level playing field with comparable countries in north Africa and Latin America.

Card firm hastens cashless society

Richard Miles
CASH might soon go to seed as the slide-rule and the slide-rule after Visa International, one of the world's largest credit card providers, yesterday unveiled plans for an 'electronic purse'.

Chirac backs Major over working hours

Even MacAskill in Bordeaux
BOURDEAUX, Britain faces a huge row next week if the European Court of Justice announces that it has rejected Mr Major's appeal against the imposition of a maximum 48-hour working week.

Mr Chirac was speaking at a press conference with Mr Major at the end of the two-day British-French summit in Bordeaux. Britain faces a huge row next week if the European Court of Justice announces that it has rejected Mr Major's appeal against the imposition of a maximum 48-hour working week.

of the European Court in general rather than siding with Britain on this specific issue. Mr Chirac said he was surprised by Mr Chirac's unexpected promise of support, said afterwards: 'He must have misunderstood the question.'

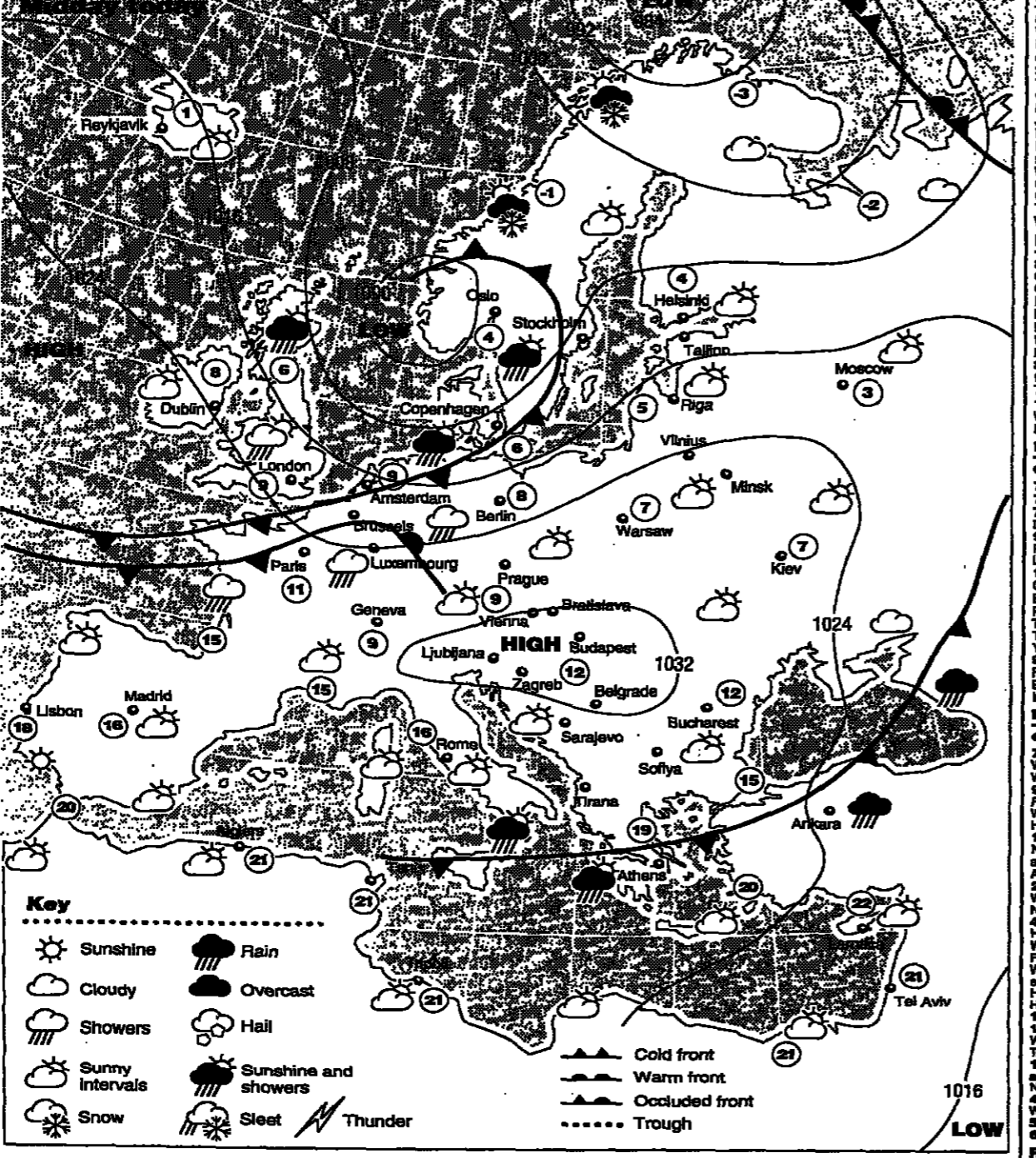
But last night Downing Street had decided to hold Mr Chirac to his word. 'We have made our reasoned arguments quite clear. We welcome his support.'

The implication was that while Mr Chirac supported a 48-hour maximum for France and elsewhere in Europe, he was sympathetic to Mr Major's legal objections to imposing it on Britain.

Maastricht Treaty's social chapter on workers' rights and a ruling against Britain on the 48-hour week would be contrary to the spirit of the opt-out.

Both leaders described the summit as friendly but Mr Chirac was combative when asked about Mr Major's boasts that the British economy was in much better shape than France's.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities and Around the world. Tables showing weather forecasts for various European cities and a global overview of weather patterns.

Television and radio - Saturday

Television and radio - Saturday. A detailed schedule of TV and radio programs for Saturday, including BBC 1, BBC 2, and other channels.

Television and radio - Sunday

Television and radio - Sunday. A detailed schedule of TV and radio programs for Sunday, including BBC 1, BBC 2, and other channels.



The strain of the game... Former Birmingham City manager Barry Fry runs through the emotions during a match against Tranmere Rovers

PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL STEELE

Only a game — but stress is winner

Steve Coppell, one of the brightest young managers in football, walked out on Manchester City yesterday after just 33 days in the job. The pressure of reviving the struggling club was making him ill, he said. **John Duncan and Kamal Ahmed** report on the stresses of the modern game

STEVE COPPELL looked at the four walls of his Maine Road office, held his head in his hands and knew that he couldn't carry on, the latest victim of what has become one of the most stressful, insecure jobs in Britain, the professional football club manager.

"There are only two certainties in life. People die and football managers get the sack," said Eoin Hand, the former Republic of Ireland manager, 10 years ago. It is still true. Every season the profession knows that up to half its members will be fired.

Coppell was charged with rebuilding Manchester City, a club that has suffered neglect and mismanagement and has declined over a long period, factors which have hardly dulled supporters' appetite for success as they watched bitter rivals Manchester United sweep all before them.

"Coppell is an intelligent man and I suspect he is suffering from setting himself extremely high standards," said Cary Cooper, professor of psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

"He would have wanted to meet the expectations of fans to put the club back in the Premier League by the end of the season. But this club has been in trouble for years and the fans wouldn't have expected that to happen."

Stuart Biddle, sports psychologist at the University of Exeter, said: "The main stress is that managers' jobs are on the line virtually every week. A bad set of results and you are out."

That view is echoed by Dr Cooper. "A football manager has to create and motivate the team, which can change through injury every week.

The job has many stressful components, multi-tasking, people management and job insecurity.

"The manager has to liaise with the board on commercial issues and deal with buying players, and interface with fans and the community. But the most stressful demand is delivery — your performance is measurable every week. You are only as good as your last game."

But the provenance of football managers rarely equips them to deal with the problems the job throws up.

Almost all are former players, protected from normal stress by a club from the age of 14, allowed to focus simply on playing and training, barely used to the responsibility of managing their own lives, let alone the pressure of being in the engine room of a multi-million pound business.

"In football, the managers have often come through to management because they are good players not because they are good managers," said Dr Biddle. "Look at Bobby Moore, one of our greatest players, but not particularly successful as a manager."

"Management requires people skills, communication skills, leadership skills, not necessarily football skills."

Howard Wilkinson knows well the pressures of management. Despite bringing the championship to Leeds United in an eight-year spell at Elland Road, he was sacked by the club after a terrace campaign and a series of bad results.

Now he is the chairman of the League Managers Association, set up to get a better deal for managers.

"There are now so many more demands on a manager and everything now has become much more immediate," said Mr Wilkinson. "The need to win has always been there, but now that need is louder, that need is more immediate and quicker. That demand for success won't change but, if you are also trying to do everything else that now comes with the job, then I'm afraid it just can't be done."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, who has brought two League and Cup Doubles to the club, has publicly said he would not have started his 10-year reign at Old Trafford if he had known the pressures that would develop in the game.

Football management, according to experts, would severely test well-trained individuals from big business.

"It is one of the worst middle management positions to be in," said Dr Biddle. "Football managers also have people employed above them as executives, the manager is not the overall person in charge. But he gets all the flak."

"The football manager is in a peculiar situation. Although he is in charge of the team he can only watch when the team is playing. Stress

among the players is high before a game but then goes down during the game because they have something to do. But the manager has no control and that is very stressful."

The growth of media interest in the game has made failure public and humiliating, with every aspect of a manager's personality open to question and speculation.

"The most stressful part of the job is the visibility of the role, everything you do, any mistakes, are evident," said Jim McKenna, lecturer in exercise and health at Bristol University. "There is a perception they are in control but actually somebody else is holding the purse strings."

The result is that managers are prone to be overwhelmed by the job and end up terrified by the scale of what is expected of them.

"In management you often have too much conflicting information and too many decisions to take and you end up not making any," said Mr McKenna. "It is paralysis by analysis, you are the rabbit trapped in the headlights."

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Taking the strain

How to avoid stress at work

- Do**
 - Talk to yourself positively. "I can deal with things" rather than "Oh my God, this is going to be a disaster".
 - Use deep breathing techniques wherever you are. A few deep breaths in the middle of a crisis can help by increasing oxygen supply to the bloodstream.
 - Get a fish tank. Watching fish swimming as they move and breathe slowly. Paul Wilson, stress manager, says it is like "gliding on a seascape".
 - Envisage threatening situations. If you have a stressful meeting to attend, go through it in your mind, achieving the outcome you want.
- Don't**
 - Get angry with the people around you. Swearing and shouting at subordinates just increases your stress levels and theirs.
 - Don't use drink and drugs, however convenient it may seem. It is the start of the slippery slope.
 - Bottle things up. If you are struggling with your work load, tell somebody, don't sit and fester.
 - Become manager of Manchester City.



Four who found the going too tough



STEVE COPPELL never seemed the type to let life get on top of him. Sensible, media friendly, with a sense of humour, he seemed ideally suited to the rigours of management. His resignation yesterday came as a shock. This is not the first high-pressure job Coppell has had. He saw Crystal Palace briefly into the top flight as a young and inexperienced manager. But where Palace were never expected to set the world alight, the Manchester City job made the limelight and the pressure it brought impossible to escape. "I'm not ashamed to admit that I have suffered for some time from huge pressure I have imposed upon myself," said Coppell yesterday, "and since my appointment, this has completely overwhelmed me to such an extent that I cannot function the way I would like to. As this situation is affecting my well-being, I have asked Francis Lee to relieve me of my obligation to manage the club on medical advice."



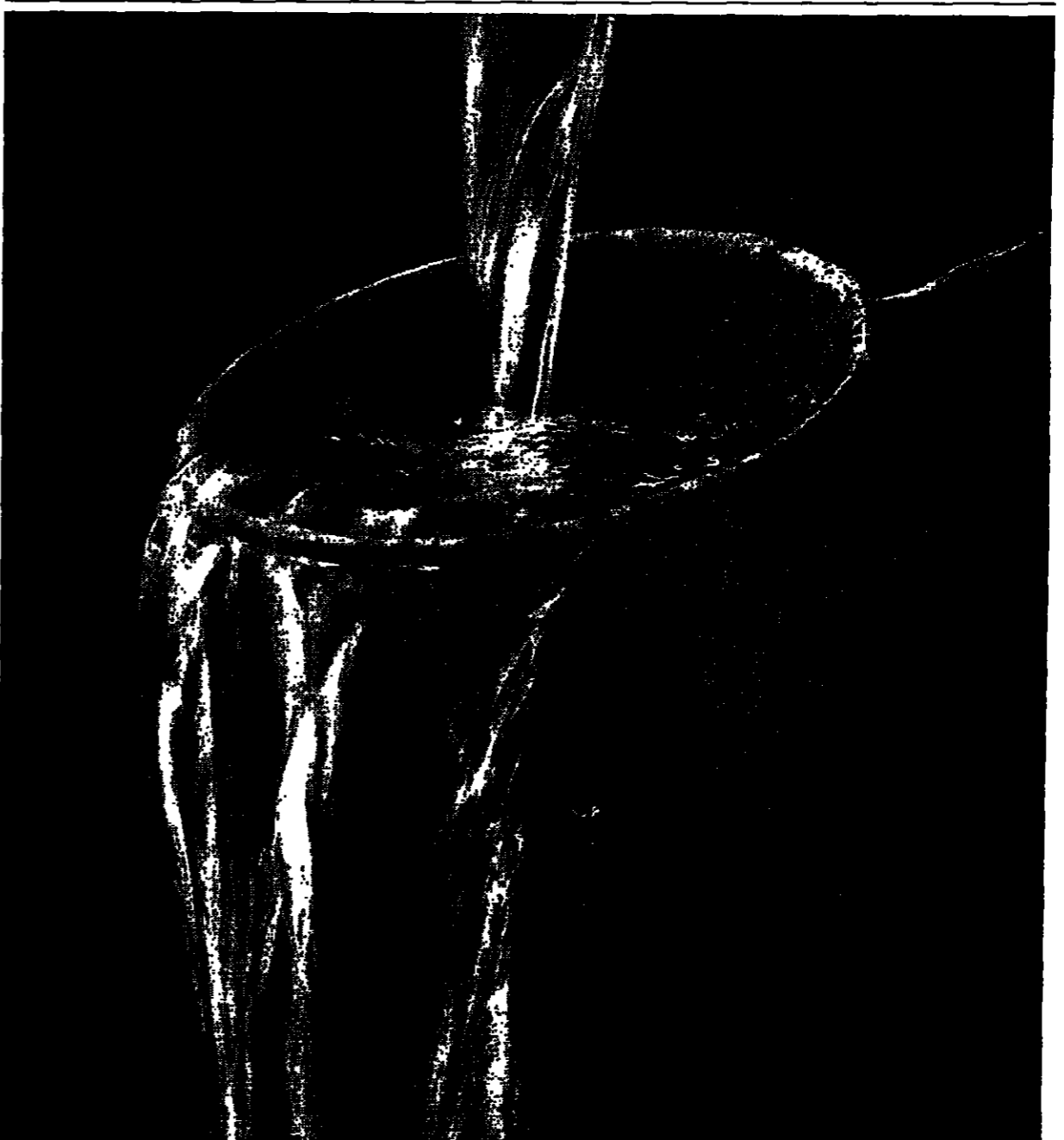
KENNY DALGLISH quit Liverpool in 1991 after a 4-4 draw with Everton, but the pressure he blamed for his withdrawal from the game had started long before that. "I realised how much pressure I was under just before I left Liverpool," he said in his autobiography. "I had become unpleasant company at home, I was shouting at the kids." The pressure, sparked partly by the Hillsborough disaster, was hard to detect at first. "It was impossible to notice whether there was any pressure building up because I was too busy being manager." He developed blotches and had to receive injections every day. Self-doubt crept into his life. "In the past I would make the decision, usually more right than wrong, and move on without thinking. Now I agonised over everything." The Everton match was the end. "Before the game I lay on my hotel bed and decided that I had to get out. The alternative was going mad. I could either keep my job or my sanity."



TERRY COOPER has started to smile again as his life begins to return to normal. Once again he is trading the one-liners that were once his trademark during an oscillating managerial career with Bristol City, Birmingham and Exeter. These days he is Graeme Sonness's assistant at Southampton, a remarkable comeback after a nervous breakdown last year. In despair at troubled Exeter, he listened to the specialists and turned his back on the game which had been his living for 33 years. Exeter were a team in financial chaos, not knowing whether they would be playing the following Saturday. The administrators had been called in. Cooper, by nature one of the boys, had been ordered to cut his playing staff. Suddenly everything got on top of him. Motoring back to Devon, he braked hard, pulled off the road and phoned for help. "I was under such an overwhelming strain at Exeter — I ended up doing almost everything at the club."



BARRY FRY, the former Barnet and Birmingham manager, has had enough heart attacks — three at the last count — to speak with authority about the stresses of football management. Doctors told him to quit after his most recent attack, but he couldn't. A stress junkie, he now owns and coaches his own club, Peterborough United. "The job can tear you apart if you let it," he said. "With so much money in the game, the responsibility is huge. Everything is a gamble, whether you spend £10 million on a player or three bob. You're bound to make mistakes. "A manager's biggest pressure comes from trying to keep everybody happy. You can only pick 11 players and the rest are upset, their girlfriends and families are upset. And then the directors and the fans always think they can pick a better team. "But if anybody's under pressure at Manchester City, it's the chairman, Francis Lee. He's the one I sympathise with."



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Pressure mounts on US to deny Sinn Fein president a visa because of 'intimate association' with IRA

Australia bars Adams visit

David Sharrock in Belfast and Christopher Zinn in Sydney

PRESSURE was growing on the United States last night to follow Australia's lead and refuse an entry visa to the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, because of his "intimate association" with the IRA. Unionists welcomed the Australian decision, which was taken because Mr Adams failed to meet the country's "good character" requirements, according to the immigration minister, Phillip Ruddock. He said: "Mr Adams continues to be intimately associated with the Provisional IRA, an organisation that continues to conduct criminal acts of terrorism and bomb-

ing." The ruling comes as a book published this weekend claims that Mr Adams and other leading Sinn Feiners were on the IRA's seven-member ruling army council until October last year, more than 12 months after the IRA declared its ceasefire. The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, welcomed Australia's decision and said he would urge President Clinton to follow suit when he visited Washington soon. The Democratic Unionist leader, Ian Paisley, said: "The Australians are saying what everybody else thinks. It's important that America falls in behind our Commonwealth partners." David Adams, of the Ulster Democratic Party, which has links with the Ulster Freedom Fighters, said: "It would be wholly inappropriate while the IRA continue their cam-

paign within the UK to allow Adams to go on a self-promotion tour of Australia." There was no comment from Mr Adams, who was slightly injured in a car collision on Thursday, but a Sinn Fein spokeswoman said that Australia had been heavily jobbed by Britain. Mr Adams was intending to travel next week to Australia to promote his autobiography, *Before The Dawn*. The book is due to be published in the US next February and official sources have hinted that unless the IRA ceasefire is restored there

will be no further visas for him. The book in which Mr Adams is named as a top IRA figure, Phoenix, *Polishing the Shadows*, is based on the diaries of a senior RUC intelligence officer killed in the Mull of Kintyre Chinook disaster. Ian Phoenix was head of the RUC's counter-surveillance unit at the time of his death and had spent some 25 years undercover. His diaries have been turned into a highly revealing and controversial book. Yesterday RTE, the Irish state broadcasting network, abruptly cancelled all scheduled radio and television interviews with the authors, Mr Phoenix's widow, Susan, and the journalist Jack Holland. They were due to appear on the top-rated programme, the *Late Late Show*, and on a

lunchtime programme. Mr Holland said: "We were astounded and so were the presenters when a producer came in and told us it was off. It's discourteous if not politically cowardly." Mrs Phoenix said it was because the book was the first to "tell the truth" about Northern Ireland and was entirely in keeping with her late husband's experience of "agendas within agendas". The book says that the security forces knew that at the time of the Shankill bombing in October 1993 — when nine Protestants and an IRA

bomber were killed — Mr Adams was an army council member. So too was the party's vice president, Pat Doherty, the veteran republican, Joe Cahill, and Sinn Fein's chief negotiator in the Stormont talks, Martin McGuinness. The other three members were Kevin McKenna, named as chief of staff, his adjutant, Micky McKeever, and Thomas "Slab" Murphy. The book says that by late 1985 Adams and McGuinness were no longer sitting members of the council. Changes had been made at a meeting in Donegal in October at which it was decided to resume attacks in England. Phoenix believed that political considerations were increasingly over-riding security in the run-up to the IRA ceasefire, resulting in a series of "missed opportunities".

News in brief

Carey tries to defuse gay service row

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said in a statement yesterday that a service later this month at Southwark Cathedral, south London, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement did not signal official approval for homosexuality. However, organisers of the service accused him of hiding his head in the sand. But in an effort to play down the row, Dr Carey said: "To make a church or cathedral available to Christian people for worship and prayer... cannot properly be taken as an endorsement of whatever the congregation wants, but is a recognition that followers of Christ should cherish all that they have in common, notwithstanding strong differences of opinion." The issue erupted again last month when the archbishop and novelist Anne Adams criticised the Church on Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* for not condemning homosexuality as a sin.

Vandal's killer gets life

A MAN who kicked a car vandal to death for smashing a brake light was given a life sentence for murder at Teesside crown court yesterday. Ricky Parnaby, 19, was in a car with two friends when they clashed with partygoer Gary Robinson, 22, on September 30 last year and chased him off. But as they drove away he lashed out with his foot, cracking a brake light. After a hunt through a housing estate in Clifton, Co Durham, Parnaby — from nearby West Cornforth — caught Mr Robinson and kicked him repeatedly in the head. Mr Robinson choked to death on his own blood.

Ruth Neave to appeal

RUTH Neave, the 26-year-old mother-of-four who was last week found not guilty of murdering her six-year-old son Rikki in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, two years ago is to appeal against the seven-year jail term she received for child cruelty, burglary and a drug offence after the judge at Northampton crown court was told she admitted a catalogue of "appalling" cruelty and neglect towards Rikki and two of her daughters. Meanwhile, her estranged husband, Dean Neave, was yesterday jailed for three years at Peterborough crown court for bigamy and supplying drugs after he admitted marrying Marie Carter in King's Lynn, Norfolk, in October 1994 while still married to Ruth.

Gales victim robbed

A WOMAN of 52 who suffered serious head injuries when she was flattened by a hoarding blown by gales was robbed as she lay on the pavement at midday on Wednesday, police said yesterday. Dorothy Inman, from Bradford, was semi-conscious and waiting for an ambulance when a thief snatched her handbag as she lay on the ground in the city centre. She was taken to hospital, and is said to be "comfortable".

Stag hunt woman cleared

THE daughter of the joint masters of the Devon and Somerset Stagbounds was yesterday found not guilty by Minshead magistrates in Somerset of chasing a stag with a Land Rover to stop it entering a sanctuary founded by ex-Battle Paul McCartney. Joanna Scott, 28, had denied an offence under the 1991 Deer Act of using a mechanically-propelled vehicle for the purpose of driving a deer on March 4. She told the court she was following the deer to see where it went, to prevent trespass by hounds on sanctuary land. The prosecution was brought by the League Against Cruel Sports, which showed the court a video claimed to be of the incident, after the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to prosecute.

Guardian sales go on growing

THE Guardian's circulation for October 1996 was up to 406,355. This was up on the previous month and on October 1995, in the face of a three-year price-cutting war among other broadsheet newspapers. The ABC six-month average figures for the Guardian similarly showed an increase in sales. The Independent's sales for the same period fell by 9.07 per cent, to 270,073.



Nearly 90 swans were returned to the Thames at Hampton yesterday after being cleaned at the Swan Sanctuary in Egham, Surrey, following a boatyard oil spill PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

'Battle-weary' mother gives way to end school deadlock

Martin Wainwright
THE bitter discipline deadlock which has closed a junior school for more than a week ended yesterday when the "battle-weary" mother of an allegedly unteachable 10-year-old backed down and agreed to send him to another school. The crisis at Manton primary, which serves a sprawling council estate in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, had seen governors, staff and parents locked in a dispute which also set Education and Employment Secretary Gillian Shephard against the local education authority. Labour-controlled Nottinghamshire finally broke the deadlock by telling Pamela Cliffe that her son Matthew, who has been involved in 38 allegedly disruptive incidents

at the school in six months, would be turned away if he arrived for classes on Monday. Staff have refused to teach him this term and have been on strike for eight days since a £14,000-a-year one-to-one tutoring system was abandoned by governors because the school could no longer afford it. The dispute went to the heart of the current debate about the final say over schools, with Mrs Shephard urging the council to act but Nottinghamshire countering that it was constrained by legal limits introduced under the Government's own local management of schools. Fred Riddell, chairman of education, said before Ms Cliffe backed down that he viewed his ban on Matthew as a "transgression of Ms Cliffe's legal rights", and that he insisted on Mrs Shephard back-

ing him up if the ban resulted in a legal challenge. Mrs Shephard said she was pleased that Nottinghamshire had "at last" sorted out the dispute. "I have already made clear that any appropriate action by the authority which leads to the uninterrupted education of the children will have my full support." Ms Cliffe said she was bitterly disappointed and felt that Matthew had been made a scapegoat. "I just wanted to get the other kids back to school, and the only way I'm going to do that is by taking Matthew out." Ms Cliffe's reluctant decision followed the resignation of three governors, who had argued that Matthew's improved behaviour justified a second chance, while eight members of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teach-

ers refused to reconsider their boycott of the boy. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, said: "This is a welcome breakthrough and I applaud Ms Cliffe's common sense. It is also a tribute to the outstanding courage of the union's members at the school... for standing up for good order and discipline." Doug McAvoey, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the case underlined the dangers of the Government's new appeal system for excluded pupils. "Had the headteacher's judgment [that Matthew should be expelled permanently] prevailed, pupils at Manton would not have had their education disrupted, Matthew would have had his own educational needs met and the adverse publicity would have been avoided."

Rate of school expulsions rising despite Shephard's claim

SCHOOLS are expelling increasing numbers of pupils despite claims by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, that the rate has stabilised, according to a survey of local authorities in England, writes Donald MacLeod.

Carl Parsons of Canterbury Christ Church College found that 13,419 children were permanently excluded in 1995-96 — an eight per cent increase on the previous year. Pressure to expel disruptive pupils has intensified, culminating in 12 exclusions from the

Ridings School in Halifax. The dispute at Manton Junior School, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire, has focused attention on the greater use of exclusions by primary schools. But Mrs Shephard and other ministers have indicated that figures due to be published by the Department for Education and Employment next week will show the number of exclusions has remained steady. "The figures that the Government are putting out are suspiciously reassuring in the present crisis," said Dr Parsons. There was a temptation for schools to under-record exclusions in the January census used by the department. His figures are based on local authority data. Yesterday the department declined to comment.

Primary school expulsions grew by 13 per cent to 1,794 while the numbers excluded from secondaries increased only marginally to 11,094. There were 531 permanent exclusions from special schools. The legislative framework was geared to moving children out of school, not ensuring their education, while schools and local authorities were short of resources to deal with children who were expensive in staff time and resources, said Dr Parsons. Dr Parsons, whose previous work has shown the high financial and social costs of excluding children from school, said ministers were tinkering with the already unsatisfactory legislation even to the extent of changing the 1996 Education Act. "It sounds like legislative incompetence at the very least." "These children's education needs to be preserved. These are children we would want to see in supervised educational institutions rather than on the streets."

The great debate

The Guardian's education debates are being staged to open up the big issues to the widest possible intervention by students, parents, teachers and other concerned citizens:
● in the paper, where key issues will be thrashed out by the main protagonists in the run-up to polling day;
● in the debating hall at the Institute of Education, University of London, where these same polemicists will lock horns before a participative and argumentative audience;
● and through the Guardian's Web site (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/>) on which the relevant texts will be posted as a prelude to extended electronic debate.
In the first of the series, we are staging a clash over academic selection between two protagonists on the left. Roy Hattersley, former deputy leader of the Labour Party and keeper of the flame of the comprehensive ideal, is locking horns with Will Hutton, editor of *The Observer* and prophet of a revisionist new deal. That confrontation starts in the columns of *The Guardian's* education supplement on Tuesday, November 12, and in the Institute's hall at 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 8pm that evening. The electronic debate begins now.

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Thirty female recruits tell of rape and harassment

New sex scandal shakes US army

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE United States army was rocked by its most serious sex scandal yesterday, as more than 30 female recruits said they were victims of rape, forced sodomy and constant sexual harassment at a military training college.

Court martial proceedings are due to start against two drill sergeants and a captain at the Aberdeen Proving Ground's Ordnance Centre, in Maryland, after investigators found an epidemic of abuse, with women as young as 18 facing unwanted advances, "love" letters and rape.

"We are terribly, terribly concerned with what happened here," Major-General Robert Shadley said yesterday, announcing that officers had interviewed 550 current and former recruits and were aiming to speak to 1,000 women.

The revelations rival the Tailhook affair — the 1991 post-Gulf war party where navy aviators harassed their female colleagues — as per-

haps the most damaging sex scandal to engulf the military. The Aberdeen case appears to be even graver, because the victims were new recruits and the alleged perpetrators the men they respected and trusted most.

"We have a responsibility to look after our students and it breaks my heart when we don't," Gen Shadley said, adding that the army aimed to produce "leaders not leechers".

Officers said they anticipated further arrests, fearing that women who had gone AWOL from Aberdeen in recent years may have been fleeing harassment. But the top brass insisted there was no co-ordination between the suspects' actions. "We have no indication it's a ring," Gen Shadley said.

The charged men include Captain Derrick Robertson, aged 30, accused of rape, conduct unbecoming an officer, obstruction of justice, adultery and an improper relationship with a recruit; Staff Sergeant Delmar Simpson, aged 31, accused of multiple rapes, forcible sodomy and adultery; and Staff Ser-

geant Nathanael Beach, aged 32, held for improper relations with female trainees.

Investigators are puzzled how a string of sex crimes could have gone unreported for so long, and suspect that a climate of fear intimidated the women into silence.

Aberdeen — which trains troops straight from boot camp in the handling of battlefield ammunition and equipment — is the latest top military institution to be linked with scandal.

The Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, was recently shaken when a new female cadet admitted helping her boyfriend to murder a girl aged 16 with whom he had had a one-night stand. Annapolis's reputation has been further tarnished by the discovery of widespread sexual harassment, a drugs ring, and cheating in a navy exam.

The military has long asserted it has "zero tolerance" of sexism. All male officers have to attend "sensitivity training" classes, which teach them not to make lewd jokes and to avoid macho body-language. Yet systemic problems remain, insiders say.



A veteran peers at a tribute to fallen comrades in a Madrid cemetery. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL WHITE

Spain honours its debt to the foreign brigades

ADRIA GOOCH in Madrid

A WEEK of Spanish tributes to veterans of the International Brigades culminates in Barcelona and other cities this weekend.

Sixty years after volunteering to fight on the Republican side in the Spanish civil war, the veterans have received popular recognition from a country wary of its painful past but now mature enough to recognise the debt it owes them.

"Spain now turns its back on exterminating enemies and defends liberty and the cause of peace," the former Socialist prime minister Felipe Gonzalez said at a ceremony for 370 veterans, some of them back in Spain for the first time since the fighting ended.

He accused the governing conservative Popular Party of distancing itself from the 10-day round of events. Neither the PP president of parliament nor his deputy were present at a reception held in the chamber.

But the accusation was not entirely fair. Even after the death of General Franco and the election of a Socialist government, International Brigades organisations had to fight hard for recognition from a society which prefers to look forward, rather than dwell on divisive memories.

Earlier this year, however, parliament voted to keep the republican prime minister Juan Negrin's promise of Spanish nationality to all brigades veterans.

Historians estimate that 40,000 foreigners fought for the republican government after Franco's 1936 military uprising. The largest contingent was French, some 10,000 in all, but there were volunteers from almost all European countries — 2,000 from Britain — and from North and South America. Many, but not all, were Communists. About half died, he found out.

"It is time to recognise your courage and commitment to a

Undiplomatic rows split US foreign service

Martin Walker in Washington

JUST as well the cold war is over. The staff at the United States embassy in Moscow are too busy squabbling among themselves about the promotion of women and ethnic minorities, according to a leaked memo from the retiring US ambassador, Thomas Pickering.

"This embassy staff is polarised into two camps on the issue of equal employment opportunity (EEO), and neither side sees any benefit in talking to the other," he wrote to his secretary of state.

In a memo circulating in the foreign policy community yesterday, Mr Pickering said responses to his survey of state department staff members in Russia were "frequently quite frank and I regret to report, often vitriolic in their expression of anti-EEO sentiments".

He added: "If Moscow is at all representative of the foreign service as a whole, I can only say that our service has become poisonous."

The Moscow ambassador, one of the stars of US diplomacy, said white male diplomats claimed to be denied equal opportunities, while others complained that "females and minorities" were given preference.

Others said the "old boy network" of white males from elite private colleges "resist — often with subtlety — efforts to promote equality of opportunity".

Attempts by the state department to promote women and ethnic minorities during the past 10 years have been causing tension for some time, leading to occasional confrontation in diplomatic service magazines. But this is the first top-level memo to have leaked from the system. The arguments over race

and gender have become more contentious as the foreign service shrinks. Three embassies and 16 consulates are to be closed to meet cuts imposed by the Republican Congress, reducing employment opportunities in general.

This has worsened morale in the service, which is already complaining about the shortage of promotion opportunities caused by President Clinton's readiness to pass over career diplomats and reward campaign donors with plum embassy posts.

Most presidents do this, but the usual rule of thumb is to have two career ambassadors for every political appointee. The state department complains that Mr Clinton's ratio is closer to 50-50.

Mr Clinton nominated a Texas heiress, Swanee Hunt, to Vienna after she gave \$500,000 to the Democratic Party. An Atlanta bookshop heir, Edward Elson (\$182,000), went to Denmark, and the Atlanta financier Terry Dornbush (\$250,000) went to the Netherlands.

Pamela Harriman went to Paris as ambassador after she raised more than \$3 million in one evening for the 1992 campaign.

The retirement of the secretary of state, Warren Christopher, leaves these personnel headaches to his successor — along with another Moscow problem, the Russian threat to evict the ambassador from the palatial quarters at Spaso House, used by US envoys since the 1930s.

The Americans are still paying rent in highly devalued rubles, which means they get the 18th century palazzo for \$120 a year. The Moscow civic authorities are threatening to turn off the water, gas and power until a better deal is negotiated.

Mr Pickering argues that the old ruble memo to have leaked from the system. The arguments over race

TWA flight was not hit by 'friendly fire', says US

Ian Katz in New York

EXASPERATED federal officials yesterday denied allegations that TWA 800 was accidentally shot down by a US navy missile.

Persistent rumours that "friendly fire" caused the July 17 crash which killed all 230 people on board were given new life on Thursday night when Pierre Salinger, President Kennedy's White House spokesman, said he had had evidence that the jet was brought down by US forces.

He shocked delegates at an aviation conference in Cannes by announcing that he had obtained a report by an American official "tied to the US secret service" which proved the Boeing 747 had been shot down by friendly fire.

But yesterday morning Mr Salinger was forced to concede that the document — which he said he acquired from a French intelligence agent — was the one which has been circulating on the Internet for weeks, and dismissed repeatedly by the US authorities.

James Kallstrom, the senior FBI agent heading the inquiry into the TWA disaster, said his agents had investigated the possibility that the jet was accidentally brought down by US forces, but had found "absolutely not one shred of evidence" to back up Mr Salinger's claims.

Conspiracy theories have proliferated since the plane exploded and crashed into the Atlantic off eastern Long Island, 20 minutes into a flight from New York's JFK airport to Paris.

In early September a document purporting to have been written by a US intelligence official surfaced on the Internet, giving apparently authoritative details of how a navy cruiser on exercises off Long Island had accidentally downed the jet.

But federal investigators and the navy maintain that the closest missile cruiser, the USS Normandy, was 185 miles away from the aircraft — well out of range — and that none of its missiles were fired on the evening of the crash. With more than 90 per cent of the TWA wreckage recovered, crash investigators have still not established whether sabotage or mechanical failure caused the disaster.

The navy has turned the recovery effort over to scallop fisherman, who earlier this week brought to the surface an unexpectedly large haul of wreckage.

News in brief

Tax gap adds to Germany's single currency target woes

GERMAN prospects of joining a single European currency suffered another blow yesterday when new tax estimates revealed a gaping hole in the 1997 budget, writes Denis Staunton in Berlin.

The federal government now expects DM22 billion (about \$30 billion) in tax revenue next year, 10 billion less than it forecast in May.

"The pause in growth has been overcome, but faster growth isn't yet showing itself in higher tax revenue," the finance minister, Theo Waigel, admitted.

Mr Waigel claims to have built DM7 billion of spending cuts into the budget, leaving a gap of only DM3 billion.

A cabinet meeting yesterday chaired by the chancellor, Helmut Kohl, reached broad agreement on cuts to breach the gap. Employment will take a heavy cut, the defence ministry a smaller one than it might have feared. A finished budget draft will be put to the Bundestag's budget committee next week, and a final reading of the measure will be held in late November.

Mr Waigel appealed to state and local authorities to help him keep total borrowing below the Maastricht limits for EMU membership.

Israel provides self-rule model

Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was quoted yesterday as saying he opposes full Palestinian sovereignty and prefers a self-rule entity on the model of Puerto Rico or Andorra.

"I am against complete sovereignty and unrestrained self-determination," he said in remarks published in Israel's Ha'aretz newspaper. — Reuters.

Shell critic killed

Claude Aka, one of Nigeria's leading critics of Shell and the oil industry, is believed to have died in a Boeing-727 crash near Lagos yesterday. Some 132 people, including six Britons, were believed to have lost their lives. — Reuters.

Yeltsin on move

President Boris Yeltsin left Moscow's cardiology research centre yesterday, moving to another hospital to continue his recovery from Tuesday's quintuple heart bypass operation. — Reuters.

Fraud crackdown

The Croatian government, whose popularity is falling as it faces local elections next year, has suspended 33 party officials after a fraud inquiry, state media reported yesterday. — Reuters.

Tajikistan clashes

United Nations military observers in Tajikistan said yesterday they were "gravely disturbed" by ceasefire violations in the former Soviet republic between government forces and guerrillas from the Islamist opposition. — Reuters.

Minister quits

Turkey's interior minister, Mehmet Agar, resigned yesterday after a scandal that pointed to links between the powerful security apparatus and a gangster wanted for political killings and drug dealing. The prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, denied a link. — Reuters.

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The appeal for cash donations is to offer immediate help to those in most dire need. It will also keep businesses running, buy tools, office equipment and find work space.

Funds are now needed to help rebuild this community, which has always been self-reliant, but now desperately needs your help.

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A VC at only 19, Edward Dwyer was to die in battle on the Somme 80 years ago. But he left a rare memorial. His voice.

TheWeek page 15

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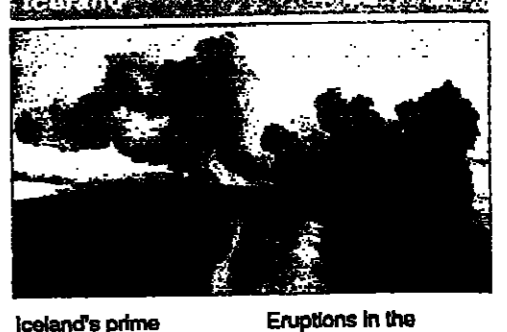
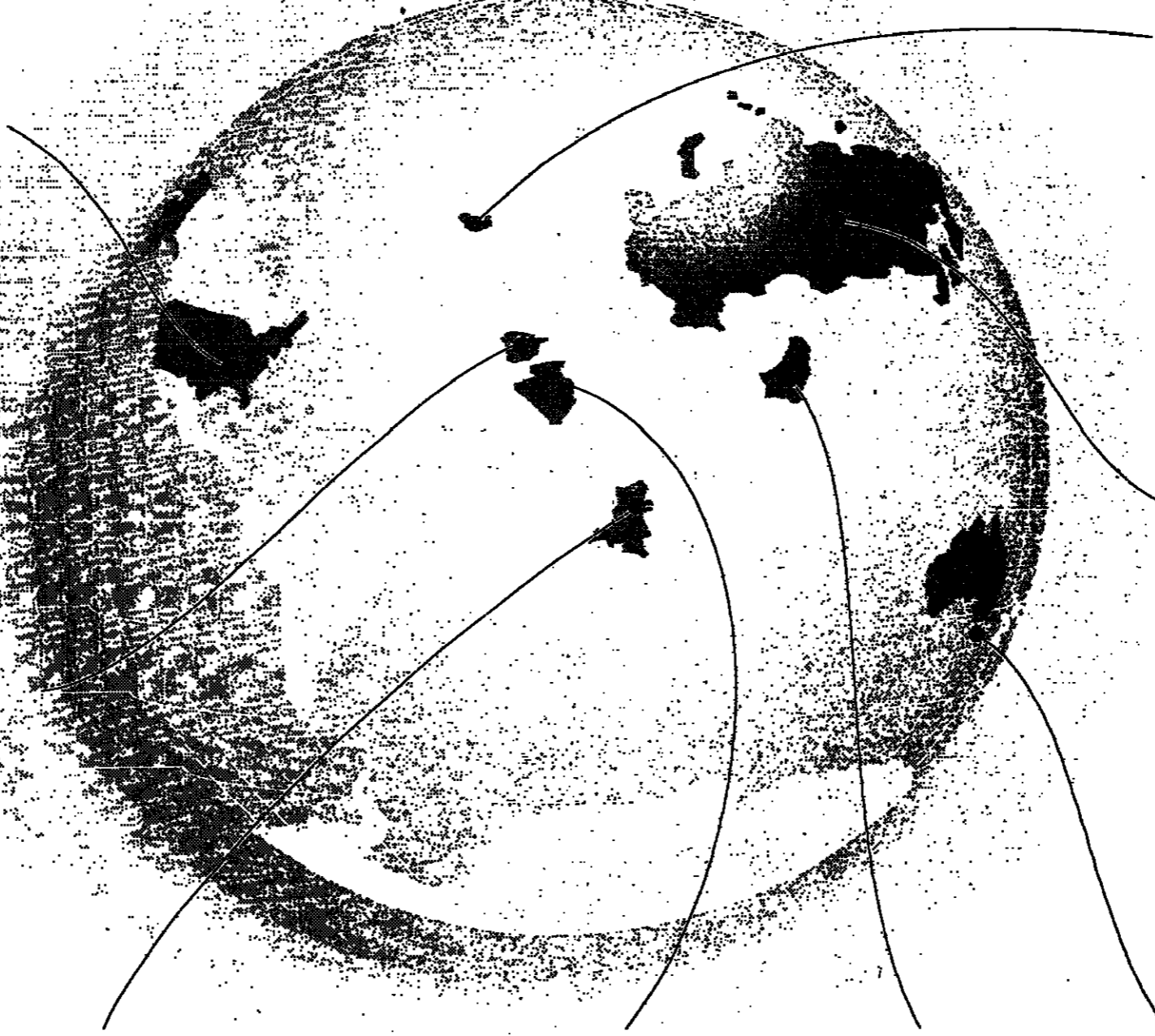


Bill Clinton is walking tall in his brand new cowboy boots after confirming that opinion polls do work by winning a second term in the White House.

told a crowd that he was born in a summer storm to a widowed mother in a little town in Arkansas and though he had no obvious prospect of becoming president had made it because "America gave me a chance."

Four hundred International Brigade veterans were caught up in an unheroic public row as they arrived in Madrid to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Republican side in the Spanish civil war.

renouncing their own citizenship as well as all the health and pension benefits available to them at home.



Iceland's prime minister took the floor during a parliamentary debate to break the bad news that a sub-glacial volcanic explosion had unleashed a torrent of black sulphurous water and debris that caused around £10 million worth of damage.

Eruptions in the Vatnajökull icefield smashed a 1,300ft steel and concrete bridge and swept away power lines and parts of Iceland's coastal ring road.

Boris Yeltsin, right, could be back on the tennis court within four months after under going his quintuple heart bypass operation, but has been warned to take things easy.



per cent chance of leading a normal life. He was well enough on Thursday to sign a decree changing the name of Revolution Day - the anniversary of Lenin's seizure of power in 1917 - to the Day of Accord and Reconciliation.



Zaire's escalating refugee crisis brought embarrassingly public reprimands between Western governments floundering to define the limits of their involvement in Central Africa.

And it urged the UN Security Council to approve plans for Bosnia-style humanitarian corridors with military protection to get food and medicine to the needy as soon as possible.

Algerians are no strangers to horror but this week's tally has been exceptionally bloody: 31 people in a village south of Algiers had their throats slit on Tuesday night.

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto, right, blamed President Farooq Leghari for leading a smear campaign against her.



former ally, might have Shakespearean-style trouble with his conscience: "For the rest of his life, he's going to be like Lady Macbeth, saying 'Out, damned spot.'"

Bereaved relatives broke down and wept in a Tasmanian court after a smiling Martin Bryant, right, admitted killing 35 people at a Port Arthur beauty spot last April.



Postview

Save on men's shavers

Advertisement for men's shavers featuring Philips Mains Rechargeable Shaver HS990, Remington Wet & Dry Sport Shaver DF56, Boots Single Foil Mains Rechargeable Shaver, and Panasonic Wet & Dry Men's Shaver ES718. Includes prices and savings.

Disaster hits passion boat

At least 19 prostitutes crammed into a canoe in search of business were missing and feared drowned off the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown after the boat capsized, police sources said.

Prostitutes often cross the bay to anchored fishing and cargo vessels. This time their canoe was overcrowded.

A hell of a crush Two French women were given two-year suspended prison sentences for harassing their former sports teachers for 13 years, declaring their love on the telephone day and night and hiring detectives to trace them.

Heavy measures South Africans are sowing their gardens with landmines to protect their homes against burglars, according to the Star newspaper. It quoted an unnamed "commodities dealer" as saying he had sold anti-personnel mines, including the Claymore fragmentation mine, via the paper's classified columns for £20 or less a piece.

Long and short of it Physiologists at the University of North Dakota have discovered that a breed of mice one-third the size of normal laboratory mice live twice as long.

Dangerous doorsteps Sales of bullet-proof vests have increased tenfold since the Thai general election campaign began three weeks ago, a Bangkok shop reported.

Legal gymnastics in China make the mind boggle

EVEN Andrei Vyshinsky, master of ceremonies for Stalin's ghoulishly elaborate show trials, would have admired the breathtaking, stomach-churning leaps performed in the Beijing Intermediate People's Court last week.

Particularly mesmerising were the logical gymnastics of Wang Zhonghua, whose name and title as procurator grace the formal charge sheet against Wang Dan, a scrawny former Beijing University history student who led the first marches into Tiananmen Square in 1989 and spent nearly four years in jail for his crimes.

Proving the transgressions of Tiananmen, though, had been easy. The new indictment against Wang Dan betrays the working of a far more supple and sophisticated legal mind.

It tackles head-on what might have seemed an impossible task - to establish how an unemployed youth, aged 27, threatened by words alone to subvert the Chinese state, which is protected by more than 3 million soldiers.

To do the procurator's talents full justice would require a lengthy monograph. Their favour, though, can be sampled and savoured. Take, for example, the following evidence of Wang Dan's determination to topple the government: "He falsely claimed that in the mainland today the authorities are imposing a news blockade against the people, and freedom of speech under the constitution has become an empty slogan."

Such manifest falsehoods, he continued, aim to "incite turmoil" and "create public opinion in support of the overthrow of the state power and the socialist system."

Such logic makes the head hurt. Think about it. For telling what, thanks to the diligence of the procurator, we know to be lies about the absence of free speech and a free press, Wang Dan will spend 11 more years in prison.

Private view

Andrew Higgins

ended Wang Dan in so much trouble, explained why. "One clue lies in the fact that those [foreign] journalists do not know what is really going on in China."

The best cure for such ignorance, the China Daily advised, was the example of Edgar Snow, the celebrated American journalist, author and "friend of China".

So deep was his knowledge of what was "really going on" that, on a trip to China in 1961, he could assure the world that he had seen "nothing that looks like old-time famine". In fact, more than 30 million died in the most murderous man-made famine of the modern age.

But even Snow's classic and gushingly sympathetic account of Mao Zedong and his guerrilla army, Red Star Over China, was banned for years. It was then issued in an expurgated form for Communist Party officials. Only after 1978, 40 years after it was written and seven years after Snow's death, could ordinary Chinese buy a copy.

In his reportage, Edgar Snow wrote exactly what he witnessed. "Intoned the China Daily. "What the Western media are doing now is the opposite of what Edgar Snow did 60 years ago."

But what was Snow doing 60 years ago? He was in Beijing writing articles denouncing the Kuomintang government for persecuting idealistic young Chinese freed by much the same subversive spirit as Wang Dan.

As a student-led protest movement mushroomed in the spring and summer of 1986, Snow wrote an account of how he and his wife had helped trigger a nationwide uprising against the Chinese government: We Spark a Rebellion.

Mario Savio

Stirring up the students

THE free speech movement of 1964 on the University of California's Berkeley campus was the first widely publicised student "uprising" of the 1960s.



Striking a chord... Savio (right) addresses a student sit-in at Berkeley. Mouths of expulsion and unrest followed

Mario Savio, who has died aged 53 of a brain tumour, was the orator of that movement, caught on a cusp of the decade. His contribution was a fierce insistence on honesty and democratic participation in decision making, and he set — or perhaps articulated — the moral tone of the time.

machine will be prevented from working at all. Savio was a stutterer whose sentences and thought were so convoluted that, off the podium or climbing down from the police car roof, it was often painful to listen to him.



Traditional radicals quickly related the ban to moneyed forces like California's agribusiness. Less political students were complaining about the soullessness of the system.

Lars-Ake Nilsson

A friend to Britain

WITH the death at 53 of Lars-Ake Nilsson, Swedish Ambassador to the Court of St James, Sweden has lost one of its most senior diplomats.

on his non-cooperation policy over BSE, but Nilsson was a masterly defuser of tensions, and even pretensions of prime ministers. And, fascinated by the intricacies of politics, and the onset of the UK's near-permanent election campaign, Nilsson was not only an habitué of our Tory and Labour annual conferences and the fringes.



Nilsson: defuser of tensions

of the most civilised and sophisticated societies he could conceive of. Extraordinarily well-read, he admired our traditions, the sense of pomp and state, and enjoyed invitations to Buckingham Palace much as he delighted in earthier things British, professional football as well as racing.

Born at Eslöv, and graduating in economics from Lund University, he was a true down-to-earth product of the south Swedish province of Scania which has spawned so many Swedish leaders in all fields.

US in the Vietnam war, Nilsson was one of a handful who kept contacts alive and flourishing even as the Nixon White House floundered in Watergate.

Face to Faith

We're all in this together

Philip Conford

AT THE HEART of every political theory lies a philosophy of human nature, and despite the post-Christian, multi-faith culture of contemporary Britain, politicians still derive their philosophy from Christian teaching.

extremely misleading. From that starting point, the existence of other beings cannot be established, and nor can the existence of God. He concluded the development of philosophy since the time of Descartes has made atheism inevitable.

competition and individual self-interest will be inherently unstable and frustrating. Thatcher came to power on a wave of faith, and encouraged individuals to make their own way, free from a sense of obligation to society at large.

ated, nor should it. But Blair is surely correct in believing that, for change to occur, we need a new attitude towards social relations. By providing a moral theory which synthesises self-fulfilment and reciprocal responsibility, Macmurray shows us a way out of the present impasse.



"Lord take my soul, but the struggle continues."

Ken Saro-Wiwa, hanged by the Nigerian Government, 10 November 1995.

It is a year since Ken Saro-Wiwa was hanged after an unfair, biased trial. In Nigeria, forty-three prisoners of conscience remain in prison and in grave danger.

campaigning for environmental, social, economic, trade union, minority and women's rights including fundamental civil and political rights on which Amnesty International focuses. In the last moments of his life, Ken Saro-Wiwa asked all of us to give these people the support they deserve.

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Weekend Birthdays



"Vote for insanity, you know it makes sense," has been the slogan of Screaming Lord Sutch in many of his 40 elections since he first stood for Parliament in 1945 in John Profumo's ex-constituency.

Today's birthdays: David Constant, cricket umpire, 56; Ronald Harwood, novelist, playwright, 62; Katharine Hepburn, actress, 67; Hedy Lamarr, actress, 67; Hugh Leonard, playwright, 70; Roger McGough, poet, 58; Tony Slattery, writer and actor, 57; Donald Tweed, former editor of the Observer, 58; Marina Warner, writer and critic, 50; Tom Weiskopf, golfer, 54.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: Paul Bley, jazz musician, 64; Robert Carrier, restaurateur and writer, 73; Donya Fiorentino, model, 29; Don Henderson, actor, 64; Sir Giles Loder, vice-president, Royal Horticultural Society, 82; Sir Tim Rice, lyricist, 52; Prof Tony Ridley, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 63; Viscount Runciman of Doxford, chairman, Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, 62; Sir Alfred Sherman, co-founder, Centre for Policy Studies, 77; Elizabeth Tealson, chairman, WRVS, 46; Christine Walker, managing director, Fenith Media, 42.

mnastics make boggle Private view

A framework for Zaire

Avoiding the cost of disaster

THE ZAIREAN CRISIS is not wholly beyond solution: there is some measure of agreement, even between Zaire and Rwanda, upon the most important objective. What is lacking so far is more than a token sense of urgency.

The Rwandan foreign minister said yesterday that his government was committed to seeing the safe return of all Rwandan refugees from Zaire. He renewed the appeals which his government in Kigali has regularly made for them to come home.

These disincentives can only be reduced if not dispelled by a massive programme of aid and reconstruction to Rwanda which the international community has not yet been willing to commit.

The Zairean government, such as it is, has also endorsed for obvious reasons the need for a mass return home of the refugees. Western governments have shown remarkable complacency in allowing this fractured country to bear — for two years — a refugee burden which no European country would tolerate for two minutes.

Bill Clinton is back in the White House and there is no excuse not to refocus attention on the Zaire-Rwandan crisis. It will be costly and difficult to arrange a comprehensive programme of resettlement with adequate guarantees and the agreement of all parties.

A dubious entente

Oh yes, now it's the French disease

FEW THINGS can be so galling to the French as being lectured by the British on the subject of economic policy and not being able to find strong counter arguments. On the eve of the Anglo-French summit this week, John Major pointed out to his hosts that youth unemployment was nearly twice as high in France as in Britain.

The French economy used to regularly outpace that of Britain. Since 1990 average growth in both countries has been lacklustre but the gap has widened in the UK's favour since Britain was ejected from the Exchange Rate Mechanism and France simultaneously sacrificed all economic objectives to the back-breaking goal of meeting the Maastricht criteria.

It is curious, yellow

A text beyond all price

THIS IS a postage-stamp leader. It is uniquely small and brief. Just like the \$2.26 million "Treskilling Yellow", it is also very valuable.

How Blair can attract women

ALTHOUGH Tony Blair came bottom of the list with his speech to the party conference in October (Blair's bad hair day, November 7), he was neck and neck with Paddy Ashdown in MORI's poll on women's satisfaction with the way he is doing the job of prime minister and well ahead of John Major.

When women enter the polling booth, Tony Blair's hairdo will be irrelevant. They will be thinking about his policies, how they will affect their lives and whether they trust him. Nearly one quarter of all women have not yet made up their minds how they are going to vote and, at the last election, 16 per cent of women made up their minds in the last few days.

In the US election campaign, Clinton's support for family leave, the treatment of breast cancer, the minimum wage, equal pay and education were all important when women considered how to vote.

Clinton made policy progress on these issues and promoted them in his campaign. The family-leave initiative proved very popular among men as well as women.

In the UK, however, there is still little sign that any of our political parties feel comfortable talking directly about the way in which their policies affect women. They all prefer to pretend that there is little difference in the priorities of women and men.

As Richard Thomas's article points out, the minimum wage is a key issue for women because the majority of low-paid workers are women. Similarly pensions is the most important issue for women over 55 because nearly two-thirds of women pensioners are struggling to get by either below or just above the income support level.

So let's leave hairstyles to the fashion pages, and concentrate on which party offers the best policies for both women and men.

Shelagh Diplock, Director, The Fawcett Society, 45 Beech Street, London EC2Y 6AD.

MORI's latest figures show that while Blair's personal satisfaction rating amongst women has sharply declined, women are still more satisfied with him than the other party.

Amongst young women under 25 there is now a 50 per cent gap between Labour and the Tories and, although this gap narrows amongst older women, Labour is still in the lead amongst all age groups of women.

None of this means that New Labour can afford to be complacent. Blair needs to work harder to tackle issues that are relevant to women.

And to avoid a macho style. But things are much worse for the Tories, since all the signs are now pointing to a generational switch away from the Tories amongst young women (but not young men), not least because of the Tories' espousal of traditional values and their failure to promote women.

The real story is the fact that almost a quarter of women have not yet decided how they will vote at the next election. They alone could determine its outcome.

CLINTON wins because of the women's vote. Bill gets 55 per cent; Bob and Ross 45 per cent combined. Women in America make up 52 per cent of the population but 54 per cent of the vote.

equal pay for work of equal value, hard-hitting sexual-harassment laws, good childcare and good elder care. We should emulate Sweden, and vote in a 50 per cent female cabinet. Then Parliament might be responsive to what women want.

So we women over 55 do not think when we vote? We are not shocked by dire poverty alongside obscene wealth, by homelessness, the Social Fund or the Asylum Act? We don't mind the NHS being run for accountants not patients, and arrogant MPs telling teachers how to teach?

Cracks in a hollow shell

YOUR article (Shell has human rights rethink, No. 8) may have given the impression that statements by Shell would be sufficient to rectify its failure to demonstrate that it is serious about human rights in Nigeria. Not so. In our joint statement with Fox Christy on November 7, we also called upon Shell to: also acknowledge publicly that the Ogoni 19 continue to face the prospect of a grossly unfair trial and to call for the abolition of the special tribunal due to try them.

Duty free

IT APPEARS that the Government is saying that, although ordinary citizens remain under a duty to tell the truth to committees of the House of Commons (Civil servants need not tell MPs the truth, say ministers, November 5), civil servants have no such duty because such an obligation might undermine their "professional political impartiality".

They also, it would seem, are exempted from an obligation to tell the truth to Parliament. And what about telling the truth to the ordinary citizens? The reply also states that there is no Access to Government Information. I have just received a glossy leaflet on this Code with phone numbers of named civil servants in it.

Coming as it does on the eve of some important hearings by the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges, the Government's official reply to the Public Services Select Committee seems a curious way to show leadership in upholding standards in public life.



He wasn't there again today

MARK Lawson (With God on their side, November 5) draws attention to religion and our national football team, but of course it is playing an increasing role in national politics, especially in what passes for educational policy.

Our two daughters go to inner city state schools, Beckford Primary and Hampstead Comprehensive, both of which provide lessons about the many religions the pupils' families practice. This sensible line is put at risk by the implementation of the legal obligation to provide daily acts of collective worship.

Why British Gas stinks

LIKE Norman Westmore (Letters, November 5) I have 12 years of trouble-free servicing contracts with British Gas until all human logic disappeared with the company's administrative split in July. My direct debits were four times what they should have been.

Problem solved? Not likely. British Gas continued to attempt to debit the old, stopped number and, as no payments were recorded, my service contract became void. All available British Gas telephone numbers were left ringing, faxes were engaged or switched off.

WHAT is the matter with British Gas? Are they showing sheer ineptitude or low cunning? I too failed to hear from them this August — as I reliably did when they were in the public sector. I, too, had to phone to request a boiler service as was due under my contract.

Learning curve for parents and kids

ANOTHER MANIFESTO

AS the election approaches, our series Another Manifesto will continue to give readers a chance to inject constructive ideas into political debate.

ALL CHILDREN should be given mandatory lessons in parenting and new parents offered support and instruction in child-rearing. At school, children should have a minimum of two years' cooking classes.

the First Family Health Club. The founders believed that the unit of living is not the individual but the family, the real building block of any stable society.

They discovered through the regular health overhauls they gave to the 112 families who first joined the scheme, that it was not enough to eradicate the ailment. Cures were in many cases useless if the individual was returned to the environmental conditions which had induced the disease.

Each Northern Ireland resident will choose whether to remain British or adopt Irish nationality. Whichever their choice, they will in effect be living in two countries at the same time and will be subject to the laws of both but liable for the taxation and entitled to the public services (except police services) only of their own.

INSTEAD of blowing punters' pennies from the National Lottery on some flimsy pipe-sue, why not spend it on something which would take us into the second millennium with more to show than just a ferris wheel?

MY PROPOSAL for Northern Ireland rests on a recognition that nation-states and constitutions are human constructs, not immutable facts. The six counties shall be a part of the Republic of Ireland. The two states will, as it were, overlap.

ARNAMURCHAN: Looking due north from Sanna Bay, here at the western-most tip of the British mainland, it's little more than six miles to the black shore of Muck, nearest of the Small Isles.

For British subjects crossing the border and for Irish citizens travelling to and from Britain the normal regulations will apply, but for the latter, apart from showing evidence of nationality when crossing north to south, the border will effectively cease to exist.

PLEASE send brief proposals and responses to: Another Manifesto, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ED (fax 0171 837 4530; e-mail manifesto@guardian.co.uk)

A Country Diary

ARNAMURCHAN: Looking due north from Sanna Bay, here at the western-most tip of the British mainland, it's little more than six miles to the black shore of Muck, nearest of the Small Isles. It's Muck my favourite Hebridean island? Maybe not quite — it's a shade too small to be ideal. Grand to explore and climb the sea cliffs, especially on the south coast, where the Atlantic rolls in on winds unimpeded for 3,000 miles.

SKYE Cullin crests, close before us the orange strand and shower-washed fleeces of Scottish Blackfaced, ewes and lambs among the seaweed. It seemed appropriate that we saw this island landscape now, because this month marks the centenary of the arrival of Robert Thomson MacEwen as the new owner of Eigg and Muck. His great nephew still lives at Gallach on Muck, maintaining the continuity and good husbandry that neighbouring Eigg has lost in the last 30 years.

Turning the clock back at the eleventh hour



Mark Lawson

ARTISTS who produce war about the Holocaust have often been accused of "hitching a lift on the cattle trucks", gaining unearned moral gravitas by association with a tragic happening. This week, many in British politics, business and the media have been making a similar journey: hanging on the wings of a Spitfire, riding pillion on the Normandy landing craft.

Tomorrow is Remembrance Sunday, the occasion for a solemn and touching ceremony at the Cenotaph in London and at war memorials throughout the country. But, 51 years after the end of the second world war, it has been decided that these emotionally charged moments in front of the cold stone cross are no longer enough.

tional rest-day testimony will now be followed, in much of Britain, by another two-minute silence on Monday: at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the exact moment of the Armistice.

This chronological pedantry will be widely observed. Having silenced all of its networks for two minutes on Sunday, the BBC will suspend BBC1 and Radio 2 again at 11 am on Monday. In many of Britain's courts, clients will get only 58 minutes talk from their lawyers in the legal hour before noon. In planes will take off from Heathrow between 11 and 11.02, although, oddly, they will be permitted to land. Perhaps a moral philosopher or an aviation engineer can explain by an ascending jet is disrespectful to the casualties of war, while a descending one is not.

Aside from this secondary silence, there is a general sense of a stepping-up of remembrance this year. Not content with adding a further two-minute delay to airline schedules on Monday, Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, boasts in the Daily Telegraph that: "We have painted the poppy emblem on one of our aircraft with the motto 'Pause to Remember'." As it flies around the country from now until Christmas it is carrying the message to millions. "Or, any-

way, to those with extremely sharp eyesight or binoculars who happen to be under the flightpath of this single patriotic silencer among BA's 240-strong fleet.

However, other companies with British in their title are also making an extra effort this year. BBC television presenters received a memo suggesting that they wear poppies on screen during a period of nearly 10 days leading up to Armistice Day. Some were surprised to find that, for the first time, they were actually handed the red poppy flower at the door of the studio. In London, popping up remained a matter of individual conscience but anchors at BBC Ulster were reportedly warned that they were not permitted to appear on screen flowerless.

Traditionally, remembrance of military history rises during times of conflict.

So why should it suddenly soar after five decades of domestic mainland peace in Britain? The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the second world war in 1995 created a much deeper awareness, particularly in those under the age of 40, of the scale of the human sacrifice involved and the national consequences of defeat. As the generation with first-hand memories of this period of history becomes threatened with extinction through natural causes, an understandable feeling has developed that second- and third-hand memory should be solidified.

Regrettably, in this sincere renaissance of pain, some — the Sun, the Royal British Legion, New Labour — have seen the possibility to establish a bridgehead for quite different purposes. Nationalist rhetoric in Britain has become increasingly problematic because of its connection with right-wing extremism. Remembrance, though, offers a relatively clean way of playing the patriotism game. Poppy politics is surrogate nationalism, sur-reptitious Little Englandism, undercover Euroscepticism.

Michael Portillo, who got into trouble for an overly-jingoistic speech at party conference, can send similar signals more safely by officially backing the Armistice lecture. The

Sun newspaper has discovered in its 11:11-11 campaign a perfect cover for a bundle of other grumbles: Europe, youthful disrespect, left-wing teaching, media generalism. The politics of the Royal British Legion are less obvious but it would be a surprise if those who run it did not share some of this right-wing anguish. Obsession with the clock on November 11 is also about turning the clock back.

The position of the Labour Party seems particularly cynical. For years, the call of war veterans for a minister dedicated to their needs has been denied by politicians on the grounds that, as a literally dying section of the electorate, they were not worth bribing. Now that sympathy to the former military has become proxy patriotism and nationalism, however, no party will leave them. Exactly opposite to the welfare state, in that nature will automatically reduce their burden to the state each year — old soldiers provide a perfect opportunity for feel-good cost-nothing legislation. So John Major, in a cheap but cheerful move, last year enacted reform of war widows' rights. Now Labour offers parliamentary representation for veterans.

The BBC is, in these matters, a victim rather than a combatant. The tabloid press and the old soldiers' organiza-

tions have indulged in moral blackmail of those who refuse to support their campaign, branding them unpatriotic. Ever keener to be seen as responsible and accountable to the public mind, the BBC, it published a 250-point set of promises to viewers — the BBC has succumbed to this external pressure. Yet those 250 promises include a re-iteration of political impartiality and the poppy, regrettably, is not a neutral badge. There is something disturbing about the BBC Political Editor, the flower of the war dead on his lapel, reporting from a Euro summit.

Because of the American Constitution's fixing of elections for the first Tuesday in November, the choice of a US President chimes with the period of Armistice. In 1996 there was a terrible poignancy about this coincidence. Bob Dole, who believed that his status as a disabled war veteran would give him a moral and electoral edge over his draft-dodging opponent, discovered that the electorate was unimpressed by WWII veterans. Old British soldiers may be reassured by the evidence that a man in this nation's establishment seem to care about them. They should be aware, though, that at least some of those who urge remembrance are really saying: remember me.

A minefield beneath the UN's boots

Commentary
Martin Woollacott

THE CONGO operation in the early sixties almost destroyed the United Nations. It killed the most formidable Secretary General the organisation has had, pushed the UN into a financial crisis, split the Western powers which had previously consistently supported the world body and almost brought peacekeeping efforts to a permanent end. And, although secession was averted, it helped create the conditions in which one of the worst of Africa's regimes took root and one of the most corrupt dictators took power in what became Zaire.

outside powers. Three decades later, the UN can be said to be still recovering from the Congo failure. No wonder, then, that the UN and most countries capable of doing so are reluctant to rush troops to Central Africa.

resented in the capital and pursue a legal path, but one group, of indeterminate strength, is trying to exploit the vacuum in the east by the Rwandan leaders. In any development which will help them destroy armed Hutu opponents and to deprive those opponents of a population base of refugees, which they can tax, recruit and propagandise. It would be served either by the repatriation of the refugees or by the flight of the refugees into the interior of Zaire, out of effective range of the Rwandan border, or by a combination of the two. A buffer force of UN troops which either kept the refugees distant from the border or effectively filtered out armed elements before returning refugees to Zaire would be in their best hope.

him if UN troops were in charge rather than his enemies. Mobutu's main opposition, significantly, is against a UN force, portraying him as a man selling the country out to foreigners and allowing the establishment of a "Hutu land" in the north-east.

of those countries. What followed was a covert Rwandan campaign to disrupt the extremists. This disruption, it ought to be said, should, in the broadest view, be welcomed, because the prospect of an endless ethnic war across the international borders is a horrific one and the prospect of an extremist re-entry into Rwanda even more so. But it has already led to great suffering and could lead to more. The question is how to relieve that suffering without recreating a safe haven for killers as well as for kids.

such a force can so easily be subverted or infiltrated, as Somalia showed. Its political advisors would be more important than its military directors. Above all it would have to bear in mind that it might well find itself embroiled not only in the affairs of Hutus and Tutsis in three countries but in the future of Zaire, the second-biggest country in sub-Saharan Africa and arguably the most politically devastated state in the continent.

Ring road to ruin



Martin Kettle

WHEN in doubt, write about what's on your mind. And since Wagner's Ring cycle at Covent Garden is on mine and since Tom Sutcliffe has just written the most provocative book written about opera for some time, then politics can go hang for a week. There are, after all, 24 other Saturdays before the general election. This is a day for other matters.

good as anything else, providing only that it was new. What's wrong with the Jones/Lowery Ring is not that it is badly directed but that it looks horrible. Here are just four examples: the sets look stupid — the perspective-less houses in which many of this Ring's scenes are framed blow a special raspberry at the music; the costumes are there for a cheap laugh — the Rhine-maidens, the Norms and Siegfried are particular sufferers; the props are perverse — all those shoes are meaningless, not meaningful, and the lightning switches are shockingly abrupt — unless you concentrate on the music you would never know that Wagner is a master of transition.

These were the days... student protest in the sixties. But was it a golden age of moral action or just an example of the mindless reactionary? PHOTOGRAPH: PETER JOHNS

Is Britain a less moral nation than it once was? **Martin Jacques** argues that, far from it, we are more aware of prejudice, rights and relationships. And it's a less than pure nostalgia that's behind the present panic



Decline and fallacy

SEVERAL years ago I was asked to write an article explaining why the students of the nineties were less political than those of the sixties. The premise was largely false. It's true that members of my generation were very militant about Vietnam and university democracy, and for a period displayed a fondness for exotic revolutionary slogans. But when it came to the environment, gender, animals, sexuality et al — the radicalism of today's generation — we were mindlessly reactionary. The student militancy of the sixties was not some kind of golden age, or if it was, the statement needs to be very heavily qualified.

more complicated — and society is all the better for that fact. Contrary to the conventional wisdom of the present moral panic, society is now a more moral place than it was. Those few basic rules spoke to a narrow range of issues, turned a blind eye to a host of others and depended on a largely passive, quiescent and often authoritarian mode of learning. The moral agenda has been transformed in a few short decades. There have been enormous changes in the nature of gender relations, the most profound social revolution of this century. Homophobia, one of the most oppressive and harmful prejudices of our time, is in fierce retreat. My wife, an ethnic Indian who has been living in London for more than two years, has experienced surprisingly little racism during that period.

realisation that Tony Blair is so deaf to the progressive changes in our morality and culture that, far from being on their side, he is on the other side, searching for a return to some golden age, yearning for some simple and clear moral code that can be used to affirm or communicate.

the 1996 edition of the Henley Centre's "Planning for Social Change" puts it: "A case could be made that this is a golden age for friendship, for temporary mass bonding sessions (the Lottery show, Euro96) and for joining communities of interest with others, perhaps dispersed all over the world."

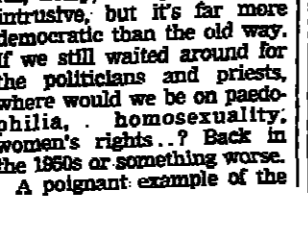
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Oxfam Save lives in Central Africa

Up to one million people in Eastern Zaire are dying from starvation and disease. Some refugees have been able to flee into Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Tanzania. Oxfam can help them.

THIS WEEK'S essayist, Martin Jacques, was editor of *Marathon Today* and deputy editor of the Independent. He is co-founder of Demos and co-edited *New Times* The Changing Face of Politics in The Midlands (Lawrence & Wishart, 1982) and *The Politics of Thatcherism* (Law, 1983). He wrote and presented two BBC programmes on the rise of the far right. He now writes for the *Guardian* and the *Observer*.



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Five pages of finance news start here

Santer damns, but publishes, job graphs

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE president of the European Commission yesterday ordered publication of "inadequate" graphs alleged to show that labour market regulation inhibits job creation — as argued by the British Government.

An exasperated Jacques Santer gave the instruction amid persistent allegations of an attempted Brussels bureaucratic cover-up.

The graphs, which will not now be published in a report on European industrial competitiveness due in a fortnight, will have an impact on the debate about whether legislation emerging from the Maastricht social chapter discourages companies from taking on more employees.

One shows a correlation between regulations and employment and the other the trade-off between jobs and the costs of making employees redundant. If accurate, the graphs uphold the Government's stance against regulation.

The Commission says its own statistics, on which the graphs are based, are inadequate. Brussels reluctantly decided to publish them in order not to be seen to be censoring unwelcome news.

A spokesman for Mr Santer, who has made job creation central to his presidency, told a press conference: "He got angry that this is getting out of hand. It has led to absurd conclusions."

The decision to publish, only four days before the European Court is likely to impose the 48-hour working week on a reluctant Conservative Government, followed fierce internal squabbles within the Commission.

Officials working for the industry directorate, which favours deregulation, were wrangling with the social affairs unit, responsible for labour regulation issues.

The row was sparked when Barbara Nolan, the Irish spokeswoman for social affairs commissioner Pádraig Flynn, triumphantly claimed that his department had succeeded in getting the graphs deleted.

This angered industry lobbyists. A spokesman for UNICE, the European employers' organisation, said: "It is better to debate the issue in the open."

To add to the Commission's embarrassment, new controversy over the report was emerging as drafts began to circulate with a planned chapter on the environment deleted.

French bank to cut 5,000 jobs as it prepares for privatisation

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FRANCE'S state-owned Crédit Lyonnais is planning to close up to 200 branches, with the loss of 5,000 jobs, to prepare it for privatisation.

Confirmation of the proposals, currently the subject of talks with the trade unions, came amid reports that possible buyers, approached by US bank Goldman Sachs on behalf of the government, had said the bank was unsealable without massive job cuts.

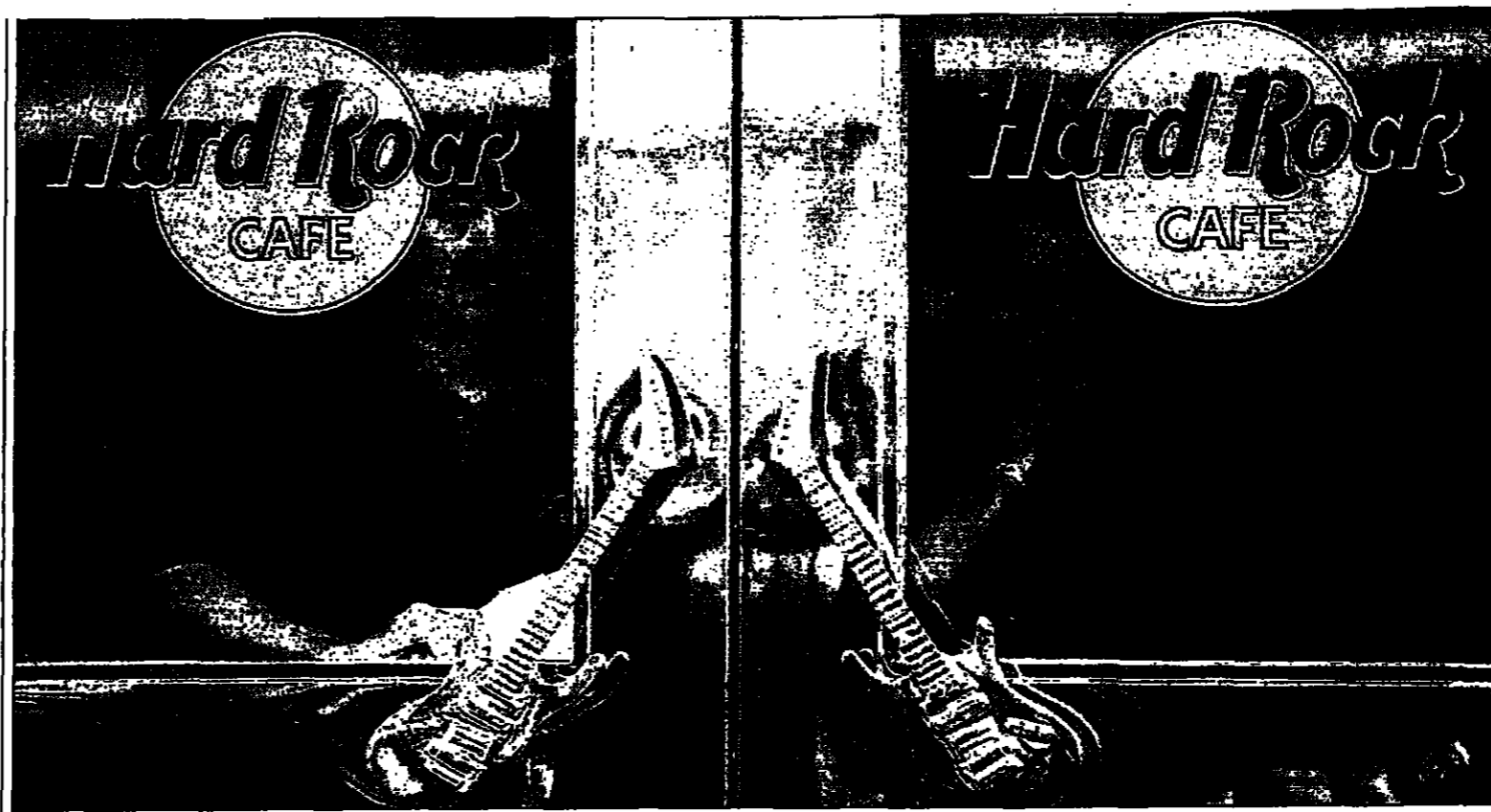
The French government, which in the last three years has spent €9 billion (£9 billion) on three restructuring plans for Crédit Lyonnais, is afraid that further cuts to the bank's 36,000 staff would be politically explosive.

Crédit Lyonnais, whose losses rose from Fr1.9 billion in 1992 to Fr22.1 billion in 1994, is cherished in France — until the 1990s the leading bank in France — but a series of disastrous loan arrangements and property investments in the 1990s all but liquidated its assets and reputation.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2,028	France 8.16	Italy 2,457	Singapore 2.25
Austria 17.28	Germany 2.42	Malta 0.569	South Africa 7.59
Belgium 49.82	Greece 335.00	Netherlands 2.72	Spain 203.00
Canada 2,139	Hong Kong 12.44	New Zealand 2.26	Sweden 10.75
Cyprus 0.739	India 58.70	Norway 10.21	Switzerland 2.23
Denmark 9.25	Ireland 0.265	Portugal 0.485	Turkey 158.072
Finland 7.45	Israel 5.33	Saudi Arabia 8.15	USA 1.81

Sourced by MidWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



Café bites back at beef ban closure

STAFF at the Hard Rock Café in Paris peek from behind closed doors (left) after last week's police order to shut the restaurant for 15 days pending an investigation into whether it has used British beef, writes Mark Miller.

The restaurant rejects the claims and is to appeal against the closure decision. Inspectors said that when they visited the restaurant they found beef with a British label. British beef has been banned in France since March because of concern over mad cow disease. President Jacques Chirac's Hard Rock Café's general manager, said he had given police documentation showing that the beef was Irish. "As far as I am concerned, there is no embargo on Irish meat. We will appeal against the decision." The appeal is expected to be lodged within the next few days.

PHOTOGRAPH: LIONEL CRONNEAU

Porsche completes repair job

German carmaker shows how human touch rather than robots can streamline production. JULIA GIERTZ reports

PORSCHE cars are designed for the fast lane. In terms of financial performance, however, the Stuttgart-based company has been stuck on the hard shoulder until recently.

Last year, Porsche clocked up a meagre DM2 million (£306,000) in profits, after cumulative losses of DM450 million over the previous three-year period.

This year has been different. Profits are roaring ahead. Yesterday Porsche unveiled full-year net profits of DM46.1 million. As a result, it is planning a return to the dividend list, which is good news for the Porsche and Pech families — headed by 87-year-old patriarch Ferdinand Porsche — which still own more than 50 per cent of the shares. Ordinary shareholders last saw a dividend in 1991.

Much of the credit for the turnaround is being given to Wendelin Wiedeking, the chief executive who took over in 1992 after two predecessors came and went in quick succession.

Under his direction Porsche has cut costs dramatically. Some of it was standard stuff. The work force has been reduced by a third to 7,000 over three years. Porsche has pledged not to cut more jobs at least until the end of next year, but only in exchange for more flexible working hours. Production of the loss-making 928 and 968 models was halted.

Other parts of the restructuring programme were distinctly less conventional. Automation was tricky. Large parts of the production process represent hand-crafting, helping to give the cars their individuality but ruling out robotics. So Porsche looked at how to make the most of its human resources.

The company took a power saw to cupboards and storage racks lining the production lines. Nothing much above head height was allowed. Leaders were out. Instead, workers were given trolleys containing all tools and parts they required. Human effort was treated as a precious commodity.

Components — accounting for 80 per cent of each car's added value — were another area under scrutiny. Porsche is also shifting the focus of its marketing. It flirted with the idea of a four-seat vehicle but then opted to stick to its tradition of building sports cars. Whisper it, but it is also aiming just slightly downmarket — although in Porsche's case downmarket is relative.

The latest model to leave the Stuttgart production lines — the Boxster (a cross between boxer and speedster), which went on sale in Germany last month — costs a mere DM73,600. The cheapest

version of the established 911 is DM130,000. The Boxster, top speed 150 mph, is designed for a very different market from the 911.

According to market research, the average driver of a 911 is a 45-year-old, self-employed man. It is often the second car, after the family saloon — often a BMW.

Porsche reckons Boxster drivers will be younger (about 35), earn less, and one in three will be a woman. The management hopes that once a person has owned a Boxster he or she will be hooked on

the brand and go for a 911 later on.

Porsche is not the only German carmaker courting a younger market. Mercedes has launched its SLK roadster and BMW has taken the wraps off its Z3 two-seater with the same intent.

Despite the competition, Mr Wiedeking is hoping the Boxster will propel the company to sales of around DM3 billion in the next financial year. Unlike the cars, the Porsche boss may lack charisma. But if performance matches his forecast, shareholders will find little to grumble about.

Motorcycle producer Harley-Davidson brought an engine for further development. Airbus Industrie asked for help with cockpit design. Industrial sources estimate that revenue from such services has already topped DM100 million a year. Indeed, selling Porsche's know-how has become so profitable that Mr Wiedeking has set up a separate division. As a sign of the times, its engineers are not covered by the collective bargaining contract and work

longer than the industry standard 35 hours a week.

Porsche has decided it can do more than build and sell fast cars, however, and is now earning increasing revenues from selling its in-house development services.

Carmakers from all over the world trek to its development centre, complete with test track, in rural Swabia. Exhaust systems and tyres are tested, model shapes refined and cars put through their paces by Porsche drivers.

Changing gear... Porsche's Boxster, launched at the Paris Car Show last month, is aimed at what for this marque is a downmarket buyer

PHOTOGRAPH: GARETH WATSONS

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Italy's restaurateurs identify pasta masters

John Glover in Milan

ITALIAN restaurants are scattered liberally around the world, but they are not always tasty.

The reason, according to Ciao Italia, an association of Italian restaurateurs, is not just that they are not always Italian but often Turkish, Brazilian, or — horrors — English. Compounding the crime, they do not use properly trained personnel, do not offer Italian wine and lack that special Mediterranean welcome.

Ciao Italia, backed by Italy's foreign trade office, ministry of agriculture and food, and the Italian cuisine and wine academies, plans to distinguish the real Italian restaurants from the fakes. The means: a large bronze plaque. Just as DOC Chianti hails

from a limited area of Tuscany and is made following certain rules, the restaurant displaying the plaque is DOC Italian.

In homage to EU rules, there is no need actually to be Italian to win certification. But regulations on staff training, ingredients, wine and welcome are stringent. Cooks must have an Italian equivalent cooking qualification, and Italian olive oil, cheese and pasta must be used in the dishes. More than half of the wine cellar must be Italian, and the restaurant must offer Italian cheese and spirits trolleys.

Thanks to modern communications and the Internet, no excuses for failure to observe the rules will be accepted. Italian cooks can be obtained through the association's website (<http://www.CiaoItalia.it>).



'His heart is in the right place. And it is big. Big as a field of cowflop. Hang around him, you take off your shoes, you put on boots.'

Bill Clinton By Norman Mailer. A major piece of journalism.

The Observer

صوتنا من الامم

Ofgas secures £7 per year cut for households as Saga Group joins the fray for privatised market

British Gas puts cap on bills

Simon Beavis and Richard Miles

GAS consumers were yesterday offered the prospect of a £7 cut in annual gas bills as industry regulator Clare Spottiswoode made two significant concessions to win backing from British Gas for a new regime of price caps.

Just as the deal was being sealed, the Saga Group — which specialises in financial services and holidays for the elderly — became the latest group to announce plans to enter the market. With 19 million domestic gas consumers up for grabs, increasing numbers of companies — many with no previous experience of the market — are considering moving in to pick up customers.

News of the deal with British Gas came in a statement from the Office of Gas Supply which said that the privatised group would be forced to restrict price rises to 4 per cent below the rate of inflation from April next year.

The new price caps apply to British Gas Trading, the gas supply business, and will go ahead if they remain unchanged after a month of industry-wide consultation. By contrast British Gas's fight with Ofgas over a similar set of price caps for its TransCo pipelines business has been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

To win backing from the company, Ms Spottiswoode has agreed to cut the duration of the new price regime from five years to three — the shortest run price regime the group has had since its privatisation in 1986.

She has also softened her stance on capping individual tariffs for different types of customer by agreeing to keep new controls under review. But she refused to meet Ofgas's demands that it be allowed to set individual tariffs within a broad overall price cap.

Notebook

Global finance breeds new bank



Alex Brummer

DRESDNER Bank's decision, hard on the heels of BZW, to re-group its fund management businesses under a common brand in San Francisco (first reported in yesterday's Guardian) highlights the changing shape of global finance.

The concept of banks which do everything, from international retail banking to global fund management, is weakening as individual institutions choose to go their own way.

At Dresdner, in the US, Kleinwort Benson and Thornton (which includes Hong Kong) fund management arms are being put under the RCM Capital Management umbrella. Probably no bad thing following Kleinwort's embarrassment with the underperforming Kepit (its private European investment trust) and the dispute over sacked fund manager Mark Horn.

In the UK, Lloyds Bank has moved decisively in favour of consumer/bancassurance; Midland is part of a huge global retail banking network in HSBC; and Barclays has been making the big push into fund management.

Meanwhile, NatWest's strategy has been somewhat less defined. Indeed, its recent push into investment banking through the acquisition of Hambro Magan, in addition to Gleacher and Gartmore, has been sceptically received.

Partly, perhaps, because it seems rather late in the game and comes on the back of its problems, now well behind it, in the US retail market — where its departure looks wise.

Having put investment banking building blocks in place, NatWest believes it has probably bought enough in terms of brands and skills (such as the Gleacher-inspired securitisation move) and will now confine expansion to key personnel.

NatWest would also like to project its brand more strongly in the bancassurance market. Its vehicle for this, NatWest Life, has been styled by its partner Clerical General falling under the ownership of the Halifax. The NatWest relationship with Clerical will need to be untangled.

like Singapore, Hong Kong and Korea — which hold an increasing volume of the world's currency reserves. Bringing these central banks inside the BIS, an initiative launched by its general manager Andrew Crockett, both recognises their increasing global role, as well as contributing to financial stability. It is easier to persuade co-operation between the UK and Singapore, over, for instance, Barings, than it would when Singapore was outside the kirk.

This, however, does not mean the jurisdictional problems of banking supervision. The prudential regulation of derivatives and other new risk on the financial markets has been made far more difficult by the blurring of distinctions between financial services groups.

In Britain, it may soon be the case that UK financial markets will be dominated by three bancassurance groups, defying the boundaries between banks and insurance companies. Barings provides an acute example of a bank in name which was in reality a securities firm, with a different set of supervisors.

The strategy of Mr Crockett on this is to bring the regulators of these two sectors within the Basle system. He quietly has scored a success by persuading the global regulator, the International Association of Insurance Commissioners, to move its headquarters to BIS.

But having the insurance regulator under the same roof means that the supervisory arrangements for the banks, based on their own risk value models, will more easily apply to bancassurers.

The gaping hole in the Basle structure remains the fierce independence of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) which has been slow in responding to Basle edicts and has thus far resisted incentives to come under the BIS rubric.

Behind the resistance is the long-running turf battle, particularly in the United States, between the securities regulator, the Securities Exchange Commission, and the banking regulators, including the Federal Reserve. This despite the fact that a house like JP Morgan is now, through its huge derivative volumes of \$3.47 billion (\$2,298 billion) is as much an investment bank as a commercial bank.

Mr Crockett, by all accounts, is confident that IOSCO can eventually be brought to the Basle table. When that happens, there will be a great deal more confidence that efforts to limit global financial risk are finally progressing.

Chelsea gossip
VOLATILITY of the shares in Chelsea Village has been extraordinary since Matthew Harding's death. This week saw them fall sharply on the resignation of Peter Middleton of Salomon Brothers and then soar on news of the signing of Gianfranco Zola and speculation that the Harding shares, now held by trustees, are to be sold.

Market speculation centres on the possibility that Mr Middleton, with his access to City funding, will go for the Harding stake using it as a lever to begin the transformation of the club into the next Manchester United. A good thought. But, to arrive at that point, any buyer will still need the blessing of mercurial chairman Ken Bates.

Northern Electric predator adds to its stake

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

THE US venture bidding for Northern Electric, CE Energy last night took its stake in the regional electricity company to near the 29.9 per cent limit allowed under takeover rules, but still failed to drag Northern's besieged board into talks.

David Morris, the Northern chairman, insisted that the 630p a share offer, which values the company at \$650 million, was too low to make discussions with the US predators worthwhile. "There is nothing to talk about at this price," he said.

The group regretted speculation in the City that the bid, and a possible offer for East Midlands from US group Dominion Resources, would be blocked by the Government — which had depressed shares and allowed CE Energy to build up a powerful stake. Northern's shares fell a further 19p to 608p yesterday.

CE Energy, which is 70 per cent owned by CalEnergy of Nebraska and 30 per cent by the construction firm Peter Kiewit, added another 2.5 per cent to its stakeholding yesterday taking its overall holding to 29.45 per cent.

It cannot move further until the bid has been given the all-clear. Notwithstanding this temporary ceasefire, there is a widespread feeling in the City that Northern faces a tough battle to remain independent.

Meanwhile, Dominion Resources was thought yesterday to be considering a formal bid for East Midlands. The US company, which was forced to admit this week that it had in mind an offer at around 608p a share, is unlikely to decide its next step before Monday.

East Midlands has said that a bid pitched at this level, worth the equivalent of \$1.2 billion, would be too low and should be rejected.



Buckfast director Jonathan Deacon surveys the waterway that feeds the Devonshire abbey's hydro-electric generators

PHOTOGRAPH: MARIO HILL

Power company gambles on green premium

PAUL BROWN charts environmentally friendly switch by electric supplier

A NEW electricity supply company is gambling on green consumers being prepared to pay premium prices for power from renewable sources.

Backed by South West Electricity (Swelb) and Sidney C Banks, agricultural merchants, the company has already begun producing "green power" and is selling it to Stroud Council as an experiment to see if the scheme works.

Electricity schemes are already operating, including one by the monks of Buckfast Abbey in Devon and another at an old cotton mill in Derbyshire's Derwent Valley.

Eventually the scheme will include all forms of renewables, such as wind power, gas from landfill sites and biogas from pig farms and other agricultural slurry.

The World Wide Fund for Nature has agreed to monitor the project both to verify the sources of electricity are genuinely green and renewable, and to check that the company only uses power from renewable sources.

Buyers warned to be wary of shares offered on Internet

Mark Tran in New York

INVESTORS hoping to cash in on tips over the Internet do so at their peril. That was the message from the Securities and Exchange Commission as it ordered a freeze on the assets of Systems of Excellence, a maker of video tele-conferencing equipment, for allegedly manipulating its share price via the Internet.

According to the SEC, Systems of Excellence, known as SEKI because of its stock ticker symbol, was involved in a classic "pump and dump" scheme, whereby company insiders pump up the share price of a company and then dump the shares on an unsuspecting public.

Names are kept waiting for £570m US pay-out

Ian King

LLOYD's of London admitted yesterday that \$370 million in payments to 11,600 Names — representing their share of the insurance market's profits in 1993 — will be delayed until early next month.

The Names, who normally receive such payments during the summer, have become increasingly agitated at the delay and many have already contacted Lloyd's.

Unilever beats summer blues

Ian King

UNILEVER overcame poor summer sales of ice cream and the BSE crisis to announce yesterday a 5 per cent jump to £226 million in third quarter pre-tax profits.

The figures, which bring pre-tax profits for the first nine months of the year to £1.9 billion, surpassed forecasts by most City analysts and sent shares in the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods conglomerate up 75p to 1360p.

Unilever — whose 1,000-plus brands include Birds Eye frozen food, Oxo, Pond's cold cream, Bachelors' soup, PG Tips tea, Magnum ice cream and Persil detergent — said sales had been particularly strong in emerging markets such as China and India.

Despite the poor summer weather's effect on ice cream sales, Unilever insisted that its market share remained strong, while profits elsewhere in Europe also improved, including frozen food, where the group was hit earlier this year by the BSE scare.

Demise of career ladder 'hitting staff morale'

Delaying craze fuels insecurity at work, reports Richard Thomas

THE early-1990s management craze for "delaying" firms has blocked upward career mobility and left staff demoralised and insecure, according to a report to be published next week.

In a paper passed to the Guardian, the society says that in place of regular applications for more senior posts, workers in "flat hierarchies" must now undergo regular job appraisals in their existing posts.

The research, entitled Managing Best Practices — Job Evaluation, shows that 83 per cent of businesses have formal job evaluation procedures and that half of these schemes have been set up in the last five years.

Stefan Stern, a spokesman for the society, said a wholesale shift from rigid job ladders to an individualistic model of assessment could be damaging to the mid-set of the workforce. "There seems to be a natural human instinct that needs the sense of pro-

News in brief

Bank supports jobless survey
The Government acted against the advice of both the Bank of England and Institute of Directors to block plans for a new survey-based measure of unemployment, according to the November edition of Labour Market Trends.

The Bank said a new internationally consistent measure would have provided a useful guide to the state of the labour market and improved decisions on monetary policy. The Government announced last month that proposals for a fresh yardstick would not be implemented, because of the \$5 million price tag.

Kleinwort reshuffled
Dresdner Bank, German owner of merchant bank Kleinwort Benson, unveiled a radical restructuring, creating a new global asset management company with managed funds of more than \$20 billion — as predicted by the Guardian. The new company will incorporate the institutional management businesses of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, Thornton Group and San Francisco-based RCM Capital Manage-

ment. KBIM insiders fear the move may pre-empt the disappearance of the Kleinwort name as a fund manager.

Finance chief fined
The head of a Birmingham-based corporate finance firm was yesterday fined £17,500 and ordered to pay costs of £4,300 by the Securities and Futures Authority in connection with a share placing in July 1994. The SFA said John Beeson, senior executive officer of Brook Corporate Finance, allowed the £1.2 million placing to go ahead, even though he was £700,000 short of the required amount.

Spy charges 'imminent'
A lawyer representing Volkswagen executive Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua said he expected German prosecutors to file industrial spying charges against his client by the end of November.

Clarke chooses Bootle
Chancellor Kenneth Clarke has invited Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC Holdings, to become a member of his panel of independent economic forecasters, replacing Professor Patrick Minford, whose appointment expires at the end of this year.

Cafe bites back at bee ban closure

job A GERTZ report



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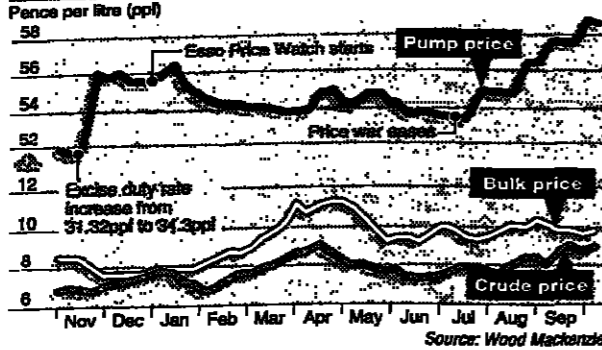
MINOR

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Cheap petrol could backfire on motorist

Oil's not well



Price war is changing face of the forecourt and bringing ruin to independent garages

Report: Celia Weston and Chris Barrie

AS MOTORISTS queue to fill their tanks this weekend they may fear the Chancellor's intentions. The Government has pursued a policy of increasing tax on petrol for four years. But what motorists should really fear is the fall-out from the most vicious price war in years.

Oil prices are rising. With unprecedented competition on the petrol station forecourt, oil companies and their retailers are facing a savage squeeze on profit margins. Cash is haemorrhaging with every tankful of petrol sold, to an extent that worries even the biggest oil companies. For smaller groups and private garages bankruptcy looms.

The industry's problems are made worse by the success of supermarkets in selling petrol and the economics of Europe's refineries. Refineries work most efficiently at full capacity, but there is little chance of that, given that



You could be sure of Shell. Now you're more and more likely to be buying petrol from a supermarket chain

PHOTOGRAPH: BARNABY'S PICTURE LIBRARY

there are too many. Two of the largest players, Shell and British Petroleum, show only a 9 per cent return on their downstream activities, compared with up to 15 per cent on upstream operations.

To rub salt into the wounds, the supermarkets are taking advantage of the disarray by buying surplus petrol from the refineries to sell cheaply, in many cases undercutting the prices offered by those very oil companies.

Bruce Petter, director of the Petrol Retailers Association, calculates that half of all four-star petrol sold between April and August — when the price war was at its height — was at below cost price. He says: "Only the richest companies can afford to do on going this."

In fact, even the richest are being forced to staunch their losses by merging operations, cutting costs and seeking economies of scale. BP and Mobil set the pace by agreeing a \$3.2 billion deal to merge their refining and mar-

keting assets across Europe. An announcement is expected any day on a similar move in the US by Shell and Texaco.

This week, Elf, Gulf and Murco unveiled a three-way merger aimed at cutting \$50 million off refining costs.

These three are small players, but the merger will secure the new group 8 per cent of the market, making it the fourth-largest downstream player, after Esso, the recently combined operations of BP and Mobil, and Shell.

The mergers will leave

the independents has already halved to 15 per cent, he says.

He also warns that, once the independent garage has been pushed out of business, the oil groups will use their grip on the market to push up prices. Because excess refining capacity will have been cut by then, the supermarkets will have to do likewise.

The AA, the motorists' organisation, agrees that the threat to rural supplies is real but disagrees about the dangers of price manipulation.

Allegations that the big oil companies operate what is tantamount to a cartel in petrol retailing have been investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and more recently the trade and industry select committee. The MPs called for the OFT to be given greater powers to scrutinise the situation, but drew back from saying competition was seriously threatened.

Highland costs fuel resentment

Sarah Ryle

PETROL is as much of a talking point as the weather in the Scottish Highlands. The inhabitants know exactly how much it costs, and how much cheaper it is elsewhere.

They are 280,000 people, spread over an area the size of Belgium, who mostly live in villages or in Thurso and Wick, the northernmost towns on the British mainland. For many, public transport is not an option.

"Petrol is the life blood of this region," said Thurso's deputy provost, Falconer Waters. "Families depend on their cars for survival and the petrol prices can add 20 per cent to their costs. We could be talking about an economically driven clearance of the Highlands and we've already suffered one of those last century."

He is cynical about competition in the Thurso area, which has three stations owned by Esso, BP and Shell but no longer any independents.

"Two of the garages get their petrol from the same tanker and the third gets it from a wholesaler in Scrab-

ster but it is no cheaper. I am not saying that there is a cartel, but the prices seem to move together and it is the big boys who need to supply the independents who would be next to a post office or grocers."

As vice-chairman of the Highlands' economic development committee, Councillor Waters is concerned about the impact of higher petrol prices on investment and tourism.

"Petrol can be 10 pence cheaper in Inverness, which is our nearest mainland urban area. But it is a three-hour drive away. It is 63.9p in Thurso but it has gone up to 70p in the last few months in parts of north Sutherland.

"It is in the high 50s in Inverness. We are told that this is because of distribution costs, but they bring the damn stuff ashore 100 miles away. We don't agree with that argument anyway, because a bottle of whisky costs the same in London as it does in Inverness. The supermarkets in Thurso sell food at pretty much the same prices as they do in central Scotland, so the filling station at the Cooperative should be able to manage it with petrol."

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SOME support for Mr Petter's views comes from the oil industry analysts at Wood Mackenzie. Having analysed the Murco-Gulf-Elf deal, they acknowledge that the savings will be passed on to the consumer as lower prices in the short term. In the longer term, supply will be concentrated in fewer corporate hands.

Bruce Macfarlane of Woodmac says: "This is the sort of consolidation in the UK market that we are likely to see more of in the future, given the highly competitive market environment precipitated by Price Watch (Esso's cut-price campaign). This probably does mean the closure of some independent retail sites."

The changes to petrol retailing go far beyond price. In the past five years, the oil majors have abandoned years of marketing tradition. Instead of trying to make the sale of petrol exciting by draping stations in motor-sport advertisements, marketing departments are offering a "retail experience" — developing convenience stores open 24 hours a day.

Richard Ford, executive creative director at Landon Associates and an authority on petrol retailing, says petrol stations aim to make a third of their revenue from

Instead of trying to make the sale of petrol exciting by draping stations in motor-sport advertisements, oil majors are offering a 'retail experience' — developing convenience stores

Quick Crossword No. 8279



Solution No. 8278

Across

- 1 List of those entitled to vote (9,4)
- 8 (see 7)
- 9 Stupid, coarse (5)
- 10 Baptismal bowl (4)
- 11 Powerless (8)
- 13 German songs (6)
- 14 To the rear of the boat (5)
- 17 Obtained by intimidation (8)
- 19 Tower for storing grain (4)
- 21 Girl — kind of green (5)
- 22 Inspect (7)

Down

- 1 Samuel's teacher (3)
- 2 Stretch (7)
- 3 Sweet? — sour! (4)
- 4 Carry on again (6)
- 5 Team ball game with hooked stick (8)
- 6 Egg-shaped (5)
- 7,8 Famous Brando film (4,5,2,5)
- 10 A lie (9)
- 12 Intrepid (8)

- 15 Issue of book or paper (7)
- 16 Erase (6)
- 18 Double (5)
- 20 Cab (4)
- 23 Stray (8)

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the week



Me and view

Linda McCartney writes an exclusive account of the art and artlessness of her photography as she launches her latest book of pictures

MY PASSION for photography began when I was living in Arizona in the early sixties and I went to a night class. I didn't really know much about it; it was a once-a-week class in photography and they were already half-way through the course. There were only three other people in this room and me and my friend who asked me along. The classroom was full of all these open books of the photography of Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange and Edward Weston, all these wonderful photographs. I looked and I was inspired. At the end of the hour the teacher said "All right people... take your roll of film and I'll see you next week." So I went up to her and said "I don't have a camera and I don't know how to take a picture." And she said "Well, borrow

a camera and take pictures". So that's how it all began and to this day, I don't know about the mechanics of photography. People have asked me if I'd like to know the technical side. I think I would have liked to have learnt more about how to create a picture artificially — but that would have made me miss the moment. Clicking at the moment and being at a place that stimulates you for that moment is really what it's all about for me. There were other influences on my work. When I was growing up in the fifties, we used to go up to Cape Cod in the summer and my mother and father were very good friends with a lot of abstract expressionist painters like Franz Kline and Willem De Kooning. So I'd go to their houses at the end of Cape Cod, in Providence Town, and I'd see this sort of peasant style of living they had. There'd be

My Love, 1984... Paul McCartney in the mirror strings of onions hanging up in the kitchen, very basic living. That influenced me, a lot of my photography is of just basic things, but with a twist to it. I like very basic living, but twisting it. That's why I like the surreal. I majored in art history and although I loved most periods of art I was so intrigued by Dadaism and Surrealism, because of the quirky ways things were put together. It was not middle of the road. I don't like the middle. I like extremes — not in a destructive way, just in a stimulating way. The other great influence on me was when I was living in New York and going to the Museum of Modern Art, when Edward Steichen was the curator. Steichen was my all-time favourite photographer. He had this page 14

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the week that was

Found in Guardian archives: Michael Collins's Irish plea The big fellow writes

Michael Collins contributed this to the Manchester Guardian immediately after signing the Anglo-Irish Treaty on December 6, 1921

THE history of Ireland as an ancient independent nation, which is now at last receiving recognition, is utterly different from that of the colonies, who have gradually outgrown the tutelage of their mother country...

national independence of all the governments should be acknowledged.

An association on the foregoing conditions would be a novelty in the world. But the world is looking for such a development, and it is necessary if the old world of interecine conflict is to emerge into the new world of co-operative harmony...

Great Britain now has the opportunity to lay the foundations of such a new world-order in the relations established between the nations of the British Commonwealth.

In such a league, there would be no inequality of status. Oaths of allegiance from one nation to another would become meaningless where there would be real adherence of all to the common interests.

General Smuts has given warning that South Africa will be resolved in any association which is not a League of Free Nations. The colonies can only be kept if they are themselves on a free and equal footing...



THEME OF THE WEEK FERGUSONS

being Fergie's "cousin, confidant, business adviser, and friend" rang humbly true.

No corner of Fergie's privacy remained unprobed there were detailed accounts of whom she had slept with, and with whom she had merely practised frigate. John Bryan, the erstwhile financial adviser, emerged, was compelled to confess that he had been the Duchess's lover until, one night in Argentina, she granted him full penetrative facilities.



THEME OF THE WEEK FERGUSONS

Manchester United, but not just now. Old Trafford's Fergie - Alex - she's the 10th anniversary of her marriage to the Duke of York...

Loe Angeles, died aged 77. His political career ended by financial scandal, he was re-elected by popular demand, but immediately made racist comments in an interview and resigned again. He attempted to get re-elected a third time the following year, but got just 6 per cent of the vote.

HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION?

- 1. Who caught a hit and took us all for a ride? (a) Claudia Schiffer (b) Sharon Stone (c) Sarah Ferguson (d) Zeux
 2. The new face of Olympus. Who? (a) Claudia Schiffer (b) Sharon Stone (c) Sarah Ferguson (d) Zeux 3. "I was exposed for what I truly was. Worthless. Unfit." Who? (a) Michael Jackson (b) Paul Gascoigne (c) Sarah Ferguson (d) Fiyona Campbell 4. "Bullshit." Whose response to an alleged affair with Pakistani heart surgeon Kasnat Khan? (a) Jemima Khan, nee Goldsmith (b) Sarah Ferguson (c) Princess Diana (d) Boris Yeltsin 5. Where did Noel Gallagher celebrate after receiving a cheque for £2 million from Sony? (a) Hotel de Paris, Monte Carlo (b) Madras, Paris (c) Angus Steak House, London (d) Little Chef, Runcorn 6. "This is my dream come true." Which expectant father? 7. 292 days... and still no end to the hearings. Which disaster? 8. Who came fourth in the US election? (a) George Stephanopoulos (b) Ralph Nader (c) Harry Browne (d) Howard Phillips 9. Sharon loves Kevin. But which Sharon, and who's Kevin? 10. Who succeeded King Will? 11. If the cap fits... who is this new honorary Fellow of Wolverhampton University? 12. An unusually wet weekend ahead in Wales. Why? 13. "I would like a job that would surround me with the things I love - maybe working in a library." Who's the bookworm? (a) Prince Charles (b) John Major (c) Damon Albarn (d) Liam Gallagher 14. Who got 95 per cent support for a new political programme? (a) Benazir Bhutto (b) John Major (c) Tony Blair (d) Jean-Bedel Bokassa 15. Who really really lit up Regent Street? (a) John Major (b) Tony Blair (c) Paddy Ashdown (d) The Spice Girls

Too late for my father - but not for his people

This week last year November 10, 1995

A YEAR ago this week, I drove myself to breakdown trying to draw the attention of politicians to a tragedy unfolding before the world's eyes. It was in vain. My father, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight other Ogoni environmentalists were, as John Major put it, "judicially murdered".

eral Assembly. Many fine words but little action followed. Today our families are still in mourning. But our thoughts are also with the 19 Ogoni men still held in a Port Harcourt prison from where they saw my father's execution. Their crime is the same as his - standing up for the social and environmental justice that in Britain we take for granted. It is too late for my father. But not for them or for the people of Ogoni.



simple. As a son, I would like my father's body returned for burial. The dictators still deny us that. As an Ogoni, I would like my people and our land treated by Shell with the same respect as they afford communities in Britain. As a democrat, I would like Nigeria freed from military dictatorship. As a citizen, I would like democratic politicians to recognise that they must hold accountable people who perpetrate crimes like the murder of my father.

silent elements within Shell who prefer constructive engagement rather than stily cussedness will examine their conscience and stand up. It is not enough, as my father pointed out, "to hide under the claim that they are only doing their duty".

Failed: London protests before the judicial murder apprehensions are for the general good. It is shameful that Shell preaches against "emotive reaction".

bunal: "I and my colleagues are not the only ones on trial. Shell is here on trial... the company has ducked this particular trial, but its day will surely come... the ecological war that the company has waged in Delta will be called to question and the crimes of that war will be punished. The crime of the company's dirty wars against the Ogoni people will also be punished."

Me and view

page 13 incredible eye and an incredible passion for photography and I'd say he was one of my biggest all-time educators, not only the photographs that I chose to exhibit, but the way in which they were printed and the paper they used and old-fashioned ways of printing. The sixties were such a rich period, for visuals. There were no rules - that's what I like. I like the weird. As I say in the book, I like to accentuate the weirdness. I don't mean that I like weirdness, but I like quirkiness and humour.



the light between shots, it's all very what's happening and it's what's going on around me taken without guile or malice. I have a love and passion for what I photograph and I actually see.

myself in Roadworks, which is a collection of pictures I've taken on the road, a lot of the pictures were taken on the hip, no time to check the film speed or the light - but I've never used a lightmeter anyway and I've rarely ever used artificial light. I just get the moment and I click.

Like I just clicked for My Love, which is one of my favourites from this book. People ask me how

you to get in close." I said "Thank you very much" and walked out. I don't like to come in my photography. During the sixties, I was asked all the time: "Come down to Andy Warhol's Factory and photograph all the freaks." Actually it wasn't that freaky, but I found that was all too contrived for me. As I say, I photograph life as I see it, not posing it. I do see the despair that others see. I also see the despair that they don't. For me, butchers' shops are despair: dead animals hanging by their legs or their necks. Or children suffering from AIDS. Some people have asked me if I avoid the pretty pictures, but I actually love the pretty. I take a lot of pictures of flowers, or shadows of flowers. Or dewdrops on flowers. I do photograph the pretty as well, but walking through daily life as I did in this book, there wasn't that much that was pretty.

phy and I do use my art as a tool or a mouthpiece. If I could change the world and change the horror of what human beings do to all other living things - from cutting down the oldest oak tree to butchering the cutest cow - then I would try to capture it on camera. And that's what I've tried to do with some of the photographs here. But they're just a little drop, a little puddle of my photography, the pictures in this book. There's a lot more photographs where these came from; there are just a few things that caught my eye. And that's how it happens. I remember being in New York, on my way down with a BBC film crew, filming for a documentary they did on me called Behind The Lens. On our way we passed through Hell's Kitchen and I saw all these butchers' shops and horrible stuff. I made them stop the cars and turn around so I could take those pictures. It was great, an experience of my passion and I'm going to do that soon - I'm going to photograph butchers' shops and that way say to people "You really want to eat these dead things? You make cuddly toys of the same things you're going to torture and eat, what's it about?"

It was while I was photographing these butchers' windows that I got that shot of the boy in the street in Hell's Kitchen, a great character. He just walked up and I photographed him. No posing. But I got so much of that, events happen. From stopping to take one picture I get other pictures. I seem to create some kind of stir in the air. Something cooks. It's kind of fun.

- Quiz answers 1. Fiyona Campbell, who admitted taking a hit in a David Rover during her round-the-world "walk". 2. (a) Sarah Ferguson 3. (c) Sarah Ferguson 4. (c) Princess Diana 5. (c) Angus Steak House, London 6. Michael Jackson, who is expecting his first child by nurse Debbie Rowe. Ms Rowe will receive \$300,000 for her "gift of love". 7. The McLibel case, which became the longest trial in British legal history. 8. (a) Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, who polled 365,000 votes. Nader, the Green candidate, was fifth; Phillips, of the US Taxpayers Party, sixth. 9. Messrs Stone and Costner, allegedly involved in a tax avoidance affair. 10. Philip de Glanville, England's new rugby captain. 11. Terry Venables 12. Following a referendum in Gwynedd, pubs will be permitted to open on Sundays throughout the Principality for the first time. 13. (b) John Major revealing his career plans for the future. 14. (c) Tony Blair, who got 95 per cent support from party members for his draft manifesto. 15. (a) John Major. The Spice Girls switched on the Christmas lights in Oxford Street. How you rate 0-4 Librarian 5-9 Duchess 10-14 Princess 15 Spice Girl

طريقا من الاله

Nana's song for Europe in the language of politics

She has 300 platinum discs. Now the Greek pop legend has added minority interests to her repertoire

THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW



YOU MUST remember Nana Mouskouri. Who could forget the human oboe in square black glasses with her skin of black hair and tyre-print middle parting? Back in the days of one-nation television, her ballads haunted Saturday night. *The time comes when we must be apart. So goodbye my love till then.*

Her appeal lay in sincerity, not sex; her songs romantic rather than raunchy, ensuring she spent an astonishing total of 206 weeks in the British pop charts. *Attic Toys, Paper Kites, In the Sun And In the Wind*, her song titles were quaint, unthreatening; her lyrics gentle and winsome. *And you must leave me till the white rose blooms again. Till the white rose blooms again!*

We have arranged to meet in Brussels to discuss her latest campaign for the European Parliament. *What?* Yes, that's right, take a deep breath from the diaphragm, Nana Mouskouri is now an MEP.

"I was on tour in South America singing, in Bogota, when I received a phone call from a political friend of mine who asked me if I would like to represent Greece in the European Parliament?" And why not, who cares if she had "never even thought about politics up until then"? Nana said yes. She was still on tour when the rightwing New Democracy Party held its selection meeting back home, but no matter, she was selected anyway. Everyone in Greece knows Nana. She has 300 platinum discs from all around the world plastered across the walls of her three homes in Athens, Paris and Geneva. In modern Greek mythology, she flies higher than Icarus.

Her Brussels office is deemed too small for the interview, so one of her seven secretaries, a pretty blonde, is dispatched to patrol the bar and find a quiet corner. We have no luck until she is beckoned over by two elderly male MEPs who have been watching her progress longingly. The secretary explains our dilemma whereupon one of them sheepishly produces a key and leads us into a spacious office with a splendid view over the city.

Nana Mouskouri hasn't changed. The glossy black hair appears not to have grown, the spectacles are exactly the same. "Hello," she cries, her gold hooped earrings flashing as she swings into the office in a blur of pink and gold. Outside a huge crane jerks to attention and swings towards our window as if she is emitting a strange and unseen magnetic force.

For some reason — the glasses I suppose — I had assumed she was plain and am startled by her beauty. At 61, she is remarkably attractive with a glowing, dusty pink complexion and smiley brown eyes. Ten minutes in and I find myself staring at her lineless skin trying to work out if she's had a facelift. I think it's unlikely, she doesn't seem vain enough.

But boy can she talk. She talks and talks and talks and talks. Within minutes of her arrival, I am wrapped in a tangled brier of her words, fighting them off to get a word in edgewise. At one point I wonder if I should put my hand up to indicate a question, or if she is

operated by clockwork and it's just a matter of waiting until she's wound down.

Ironically, I am here to ask her about language and her campaign to protect one of Europe's most endangered species, minor tongues.

"It's not even English English, it's American English," she says indignantly, explaining that all the instructions for new technology at the EU are now produced in English. In response, she has launched Operation Ariane to support the translation and publication of documents in all sorts of lesser spoken languages such as Catalan, Basque, Welsh, Gaelic and of course, Greek. Earlier this month, much to the scorn of British Euro-sceptics, Operation Ariane was given an EU grant of £9 million.

"I'm not at all against English, I learned it so I could sing many folk and jazz songs," she continues quickly, fearing that her campaign has been misconstrued as anti-British. And then she's off and running against the silence as if every word is a potential goal.

"The problem for other languages is this, we are Europe and each separate country has its culture, and language is one of the main expressions of that culture. It's part of a country's identity, I have nothing against English, but the problem is not all people have access to it. Our project puts the emphasis on education, schools will have to offer three languages. And new technology must be explained but not just in English."

She doesn't need to pause for breath, her lungs seem to fill automatically as if perhaps she keeps a discreet intravenous supply of oxygen in her bag. Neither does she appear to punctuate, relying on repetition for effect. Her spoken voice is still musical, husky, like a smoky tenor saxophone, but after a few minutes of listening to her fill the room, I begin to feel as though I am being engulfed in a tidal wave of words. Her sentences race into each other with no beginning nor end.

How many languages do you speak, I interrupt. "Six," she answers without hesitation. "Greek, English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. And I'm learning Dutch at the moment because so many people speak it in Belgium, then I'm going to learn Russian, because Russia is something else. And after that Chinese," she adds brightly.

Does she think the British are terribly lazy, I ask, guiltily? "Oh no, not lazy," she smiles wagging a finger. "And I don't think learning languages is about talent either, if you love doing something you can do it. But it's OK for you guys, wherever you go people will always be able to say 'Hello', but for me, for small countries and little people, we can't travel without speaking another language."

She speaks so passionately, I wonder if she has found a new vocation. Which does she prefer singing or politicking? "I am a singer and will always remain a singer," she declares, each of her fingers twisting and curling like individual Thai dancers.

At the full-time here and I kill myself, then I find time to sing. I have two records in Spanish at the moment, so I go to Spain and South America to sing next year. Last year I toured in Germany for two months and I found I could sing on Thursdays, Fridays, the weekend and Mondays and still be here for the rest of the days!"

She launches into another of her wild sing-songy declarations, faithless in its sincerity. "My feeling communicating and finding love in life comes through my singing, but politics is important and my message is always peace and love and democracy and equality."

"Tell me ..." I begin pointlessly.



Nana republic... "Communicating love comes through singing, but in politics my message is always peace and love and democracy and equality" PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Finding love in life comes through my singing, but politics is important

... And I think artists they do love communication, they express themselves, we all need love, we all do for everything for love, we need to feel that people love us and so we can only feel that by communicating!"

"How interesting, but..." "Languages are a wonderful communication," she rattles on. "This world here will survive with diversity, with cultures, because I don't think only politics can save the world!"

I nod as she hurries on and I find myself momentarily distracted by her jewellery. Five gold rings on one finger alone, one big ruby, one big emerald, three more plain rings, two with fancy filigree, five gold bangles on the left arm, gold watch. Still one of the highest-earning female singers in

the world, Mouskouri could buy the entire National Bank of Greece, but what about other matters European, monetary union for instance?

"It would be nice if there was a Euro and behind it each country had their own currency still, but it has to be a harmonisation. It will be difficult to be achieved, but it's how you say... *indispensable!*"

But if currency can be harmonised for the sake of European unity, why not the use of languages? "No, it's not the same," she cries. "The Euro is completely new and neutral, whereas every country would like their language to be the first. The Germans would prefer we all speak German, the French French etc. Only a few languages means everything becomes homogenised, like America."

It's a wonderful country, but wherever you go you have the same kind of food, it's all the same. Let's keep all Europe's personalities." But what about the problems in Catalonia and the Basque region, I protest. Isn't she encouraging nationalism? Besides, in these days of the global village, what's the point of keeping minor languages alive?

Is there anything more tiresome than driving through Wales and seeing an English road sign with an identical Welsh translation by its side? "Oh, no," she squeals horrified. "If we start learning other languages and histories and the music of other countries, we will start to love each other."

She is due at a plenary session, but there is something else I'm curious about. Those glasses. Will she take them off a moment? "Oh, no, I feel naked without them!"

Has she ever tried contact lenses? "No, once I accepted I had to wear glasses I didn't want to take them off. They suit my face. I wanted to be myself, I was always this girl with the glasses and being a singer you didn't have the right to wear glasses."

Did she ever consider herself a sex symbol? "No, I never was. I felt my glasses protected me. I wanted to succeed with my singing, not anything else. I didn't have anything else I try not to feel insecure, I wasn't a beautiful girl, I had to wear glasses, but what I can do is to sing. I'm a good singer and now I'm trying to be a good MEP."

Perhaps John Major should give Cliff Richard a ring.

JEREMY HARDY



Targeting the enemy within our classrooms

GILLIAN Shepard's threat to send in a task force at the Ridings School presumably means that the Tories aim to hold a khaki election, after a war in which the enemy is the teaching profession. A war is exactly what the Tories need at this point. The problem has been finding someone to fight.

So, he needs a war that appears to be brand new, ideally fought right here in Britain to maximise media coverage. The Tories are not strong, so they need a tired, badly-equipped and demoralised enemy.

Teachers are perfect, and the Ridings is the ideal place to stage the invasion. It will appear that the government is not responsible for the conflict but is intervening to stop it. Having pitted parents and children against teachers and unions, the Tories just have to take the teachers three weeks to comply with their demands.

But here my analogy, already under severe strain, falls apart completely. The teachers, unlike Iraq or Argentina, have never had any support from the Tories. They

have been under sustained covert attack for years. The "Crises in Education" is perhaps more like a colonial situation, in which the government has successfully played off against each other groups whose interests are really the same and who should be uniting to fight the oppressor.

Even then, not all teachers and parents are fighting each other. After all, many people are both teachers and parents. But in the media, Child and Teacher are presented as warring factions locked in an intractable and inexplicable conflict, backed by the two larger powers, Parents and Unions. Ofsted appears as an impartial peace-keeping force. Chris Woodhead has been transformed from right-wing hatchet-man to trouble-shooting diplomat overnight; the fastest and most ludicrous reinvention since Henry Kissinger.

More over, the Tories created the conflict in education by sending in market forces, and in that situation they must appear to side with the consumer, that is, the parents. In the market-place, the consumer is king — or rather, an emperor in new clothes of the flimsy and synthetic kind which

are all you can get in most modern market-places. Parental choice, like consumer choice, is a great capitalist myth. You can only choose from the limited selection available, and even then they might not have what you choose in stock, unless you're rich; then you can have whatever you want.

The ethos of private education has infected the state system. Instead of taxation being regarded as the source of funding for public expenditure, thus providing children with the education they need, it is now viewed as a system by which parents buy schooling on the open market. Ultimately, the Tories wish to make us all pay directly for education. The plan is to issue vouchers which can be redeemed at schools and colleges. People with no children will be able to choose a set of tumbler instead.

In the meantime, parents are already encouraged to choose schools and given the illusion that their demands can always be met.

At the same time, schools are encouraged to choose pupils. Some schools use the only sensible criterion, which is to try to serve all local children, regardless of parents' class, religion or aspiration.

Some eye up children as though they were cattle at auction. Some do a bit of both. And some end up with the kids nobody else will take, a fact which is obvious to the kids concerned and does little for their sense of dignity. It also means that behavioural problems combine and multiply, that teachers are over-stretched, that Ofsted can breeze in to issue high-handed condemnations, and that the media can turn the whole thing into a circus.

Soon, CNN will arrive in Yorkshire and in a couple of years former school inspectors will write best-selling, trashy war-memoirs about the Battle of Calderdale. There will be no winners in the war, except possibly the party which has caused the whole bloody mess.

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Targeting the enemy within our classrooms



O Lucky Jim, how I envy the man who wrote him

SUNDAY: An unexpected weekend treat, as I re-read Lucky Jim for the first time since I bought the now-yellowed and brittle paperback in 1961.

MONDAY: Naturally, I buy the new Hello! magazine containing My Story by Fergie. Last week, I was whingeing about the way we cling to outdated stereotypes of America, but here she says: "In Britain, where sex can never be mentioned..."

Western common sense, but has a wonderful habit of going bonkers on air — though regrettably he seems to stay sane tonight. I liked Joan Rivers's line: "Choosing between Clinton and Dole is like having to pick your favourite Menendez brother." I finally went to bed.

'Cheating match-girl' Eliza, 13, cons the public by standing barefoot in the snow. But at home she has a pair of shoes...

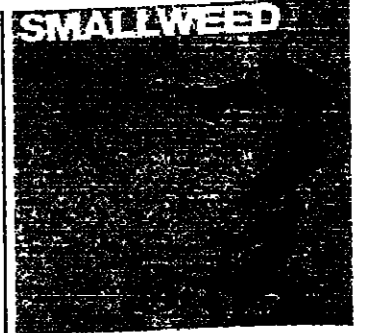
after the good news that the Democrat Max Cleland, a Vietnam veteran and triple amputee, has won the Senate seat in Georgia. He campaigned on the slogan: "Support Max Cleland. He can only put one hand in the till."

WEDNESDAY: The Big Issue magazine this week is largely devoted to a Sun newspaper article in which they claimed to have found

a seller of the magazine who makes £1,000 a week and lives in a comfortable home. They are, reasonably enough, indignant and say the figure is a wild exaggeration. But there are always problems when charity masquerades as commerce. What do you do about those young people who turn up at your door, selling useless household goods such as £3 great gloves which, if you used them to pick up a hot dish, would leave you screaming in agony? Of course the Sun is mean-spirited and nasty. You know that 100 years ago they'd have written: "Cheating match-girl Eliza, 13, cons the kind-hearted public by standing barefoot in the snow. But at home in her cosy one-up, one-down hovel, Eliza has a pair of shoes..."

THURSDAY: Wake up to hear my own voice on the radio, calling the late Brian Redhead scilicet. If you even said "nice day" to him,

he'd tell you that he'd said the same to Mrs Thatcher that morning, and she'd replied: "As always, Brian, you're absolutely right." The full radio profile which followed that evening was described as "warts and all," though there seemed to be considerably more warts than all. I felt a little uneasy. When the BBC phoned last month I said I had liked and admired Brian, but that he was self-obsessed. They sounded relieved, and implied that everyone else — even people who had openly disliked him when he was alive — had refused to breathe a disparaging word on air. My contribution would be the vinegar on the salad. In the programme, however, the criticism was piled thick and high. Did they hint to everyone that theirs would be the only astute remark? And is this why (John Humphrys called him a Walter Mitty fantasist.) I don't suppose they deliberately meant to mislead the contributors and certainly the judgmental broadsheet struck me as individually quite accurate. But the overall impression was, I felt, skewed against Brian, and if I were his daughter, I suspect I'd be a little cross.



STUESDAY night turned to Wednesday, they kept saying — over and over again — that it was a HISTORIC election. Well, American politics has been only a few times a century and are rather important. Of course, it was HISTORIC. What else could it be? But it was not very historic. Nothing much changed. And it was ridiculous to keep saying that it was the first time since 1936 that a Democrat president had been elected to a second term. This was an entirely misleading factoid, since Franklin Roosevelt was subsequently elected to third and fourth terms.

AND, of course, it was historic because three of the four main candidates — Bob Dole, Al Gore and Jack Kemp — only had 21 letters in their names between them, which was obviously unprecedented and made them popular with headline writers even in the prolix American papers. If less so with the voters. Gore is very close to the premier league in this competition, where the undoubtedly stars have been Tom Mix, Tim Mo and the former Burness prime minister, and it's only four men with four-letter surnames have ever become president of the United States, and their record is not good. Ford was never elected at all and neither Polk, Taft nor Bush got a second term.

AMERICANS prefer their politicians to have names of a certain distinction. Inevitably, Saxby Chambliss was re-elected on Tuesday as Republican congressman from the eighth district of the State of Georgia. He could hardly get a job as a garage mechanic, any more than could congressmen Sanford Bishop, Roscoe G Bartlett, Sherwood Boehlert, Fortney Stark or Senator Latch Fairclough. The very sounds conjure up Charles Laughton strutting Capitol Hill in a white suit. This theory does not wholly explain why the electors also managed to return congressmen Bob Stump, Michael D Crapo, Nathan Deal, Ray LaHood, Ron Kline, Richard W Pombo, Floyd H Flake and, come to that, Sonny Bono. All one can say is that they do not sound like contenders for the Conservative nomination for the constituency of Kensington and Chelsea.

SINCE it may well be several lifetimes, even for a Strom Thurmond baby-sitter, before a governor of Arkansas again becomes president, we may never have another chance to discuss this most curious state, the only example Smallweed knows of reverse-Lemsterism (or Leminsterism) in America. Occasionally, the Americans foot the innocent European with over-literal pronunciations of place names like Kay-ro for Cairo, Illinois and what sounds like "Terry! Howdee!" for Terre Haute, Indiana. But they don't normally go in for wilful eccentricity to get their revenge for Leicester, Worcester and Southwell. I can reveal (exclusively, in the sense that no one else would have been daft enough to research this) that the subject gave rise to such dispute in the 19th century that it had to be sorted out in 1881 by a state General Assembly. This unanimously voted to support the view that the name had originally been picked up from the Indians by French explorers, and the spelling was the French way of representing the Indian sound. Arkansas was thus correct and, the assembly added with a loftiness worthy of the senatorial Charles Laughton: "the sounding of the terminal 's' is an innovation to be discouraged." Other nice facts about Arkansas: It has towns called Plum Bayou, Pine Bluff, Tulp and Birdsong, and there was once a newspaper called the Arkadelphia Shiftings.

THE best part of election night came for anyone watching on CNN during the commercial breaks. The Union Bank of Switzerland is running the most astonishing advertising campaign, comprising simply an actor declaiming a poem, followed by a brief slogan. Tuesday night's collection included Gielgud reciting from Tennyson's Olysses ("... to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield") and Alan Bates doing W E Henley ("I am the master of the fate; I am the captain of my soul"). Both were spellbinding. There are 10 others in the series: Gielgud doing "there is a lode in the affairs of men..." which the Clintons may well deliver to each other every night before bedtime — and Ben Kingsley doing Ozymandias — which is the one they ought to deliver. These ads are not being shown on British TV because this is a company trying to raise its international standing, not attract grubby little overdrafts from the likes of us. Heaven knows where USB stands on Nazi gold and other little matters, but it is difficult to think of a company that can market itself with such class — which is of course the idea.

Who's right to fight?



With six world-title fights tonight, Colin 'Sweet C' McMillan and Lord Taylor of Gryfe punch it out in an exchange of faxes over whether society should condone a sport that deliberately inflicts harm

Dear Colin,

THERE are laws in this country which state that whoever shall unlawfully and maliciously inflict any grievous bodily harm even with consent upon any other person shall be guilty of an offence. I suggest that when two people are in a ring they are intent on doing bodily harm to their opponent. The intention is to knock their opponent unconscious. If these two individuals were to step out of the ring they would be arrested. It is said that other sports are dangerous. Indeed a young man was killed the other day in a rugby match, but boxing is the only sport in which it is the intention to inflict damage on an opponent. Other sports have rules, like soccer and rugby, to prevent that happening. There is an important moral argument against boxing. In the last year, politicians have been concerned about the growth of violence in our society. Boxing is a violent sport, indeed it glamorises

violence. Years ago, cock-fighting was regarded as a legitimate sport but is now banned because people felt that cock-fighting had no place in a civilised society. I suggest that boxing has no place in a civilised society either. A recent British heavyweight champion said when he turned professional, how can you call professional boxing a sport, it's a business. A hard business all the time, a cruel business some of the time. I have no illusions about the noble art of self-defence or any of that kids' stuff. Now I am paid to hurt and the more I hurt the more I'm paid.

Yours sincerely, Lord Taylor of Gryfe

Dear Lord Taylor,

I MUST say that I find the comparisons you make between boxing, and acts which could be deemed to be both unlawful and malicious quite ludicrous. While certain sections of the media are responsible for glamorising the "knock-out" and for perpetrating the myth that the main objective of boxing is to



inflict pain on your opponent, boxing remains the "Noble Art of Self-Defence". For me and for many others, the aim is to hit, and not to be hit. It is a sport which requires a great deal of thought, skill and determination and, by indulging in it, we are allowed to be part of the highest form of competition, which requires the complete synchronisation of the mind, the body and the soul. Furthermore, contrary to your assertion that links the growth of violence to the appeal of boxing, I believe quite the opposite is true. As I have stated on a number of occasions: "For young men, boxing acts as a school. Through it they are instilled with respect, discipline and control; taught how to control frustration and aggression to a positive end."

The benefits and good which the sport has to offer far outweigh the bad: so much so that there are now moves by the sport's establishment to have it re-introduced in the national curriculum. Undoubtedly it is a dangerous sport, as many sports are. But recent statistics bear out the fact, that boxing comes way down the list in terms of both fatalities and injuries, behind rugby, football, horse-riding and motor-racing, to name but a few. It always strikes me as rather strange that people like yourself are so vocal in your advocacy for the banning of boxing, yet quiet when fatalities occur in other sports.

Boxing has always remained a working-class sport and has provided a great deal of enjoyment for many people. It has given many youngsters the opportunity to make something of their life. In a "civilised", democratic and free society, surely no one has the right to deny these young men the opportunity of going in search of their dreams.

Yours, Colin

Dear Colin,

YOU object to the media glamorising "the knockout". But surely it is the sport itself which rules that the victory is achieved and success measured by this route. Mike Tyson polishes off his opponents quickly and is applauded. If you felt the media is responsible for glamorising boxing, let me give you a few examples. A recent national newspaper description of a championship fight at Wembley stadium, headed Bloodbath, ran: "The champion regained his title with a breathtaking, awe-inspiring display of primal savagery". This is the "sport" you are defending.

Nigel Benn, a few years ago, entered the ring to wild applause. On his dressing-gown were emblazoned the words, "The Black Destroyer". His opponent Michael Watson, interviewed before the fight, said, "I get a buzz when I knock a man unconscious." Nigel then achieved his mission and Michael was rushed from the ring permanently paralysed. In the last few years, the roll-call reads: Gerald Maclellan, permanently paralysed; Bradley Stone, dead in the ring; James Murray, dead in the ring. But the most damage arises in the less widely reported cases. The BMA records list a terrible toll of brain injuries following boxing careers. Lord Walton, a distinguished neurosurgeon warned the House of Lords that "There is powerful neurological evidence to indicate clearly that a severe blow to the head inevitably results in the death of a small number of brain cells." [These men] were invariably praised by the press for their bravery in taking punishment. The consequence: progressive brain damage with a deterioration of the intellect called dementia. The slow, sombre shuffling gait is the hallmark of the punch-drunk syndrome. Muhammad Ali is probably the best example of this.

Yours, Colin

Dear Lord Taylor,

I CAN'T help but feel that you have entirely missed the point I was trying to make. And your quotes from the various newspapers merely re-emphasise my earlier contention. Undoubtedly, it is the ambition of the tabloids to sensationalise and dramatise boxing, and unfortunately this leads to certain fighters playing up to this image, to gain publicity, create interest and increase their earning potential. (This type of irresponsible journalism leads large sections of the public to be unaware of what the rudiments of boxing really are.) During my 15 years in the sport, neither I nor the numerous boxers that I have come in contact with, have gone into the ring with the intention of inflicting permanent damage on an opponent.

Your comments on the Benn/Watson fight show you have been misinformed. It was Michael Watson and not Nigel Benn who emerged as the winner, and Benn suffered no significant damage. Furthermore, while your roll-call of fighters who have become permanently damaged or have died in the ring seems quite alarming, you fail to mention that, in recent studies, boxing does not even enter the top 10 list of sporting fatalities. In fact medical opinion is divided. Eminent neurosurgeons like Peter Hamlyn and Peter Richardson

Dear Lord Taylor,

I QUITE agree, for once at least, that we are from different worlds. I'm from a world where there is a free society, and individuals are allowed to make their own decisions in their pursuit of enjoyment, success and happiness. To suggest, as you do, that the face of a boxer is represented by "bad" role models and the criminal element, is certainly not true. You only have to read recent newspaper reports to see that in football and cricket there have been those who've fallen short of the moral standards expected of sporting heroes. Boxing, like all sports, is composed of many types; some who do good, some who do not.

I note you still fail to accept the proven medical fact that Muhammad Ali suffers from an inherited form of Parkinson's disease, implying still that his condition is due solely to boxing. Boxing is to me a noble art. The aim is not to inflict permanent damage and it is for this reason that the medical profession is in fact divided. There are numerous doctors attending the shows who are passionate supporters of the sport. The public have given boxing their seal of approval, and the numerous debates and polls suggest that they are aware of the many benefits the sport has to offer, and will be firmly behind the moves to have it reintroduced into the national curriculum. Parents are all too aware that in an increasingly violent society, the virtues of respect, motivation, confidence and pride that boxing instils should be allowed to flourish in a controlled and safe environment. If my children wanted to become professional boxers, at the end of the day I would let the decision be theirs.

Yours, Colin



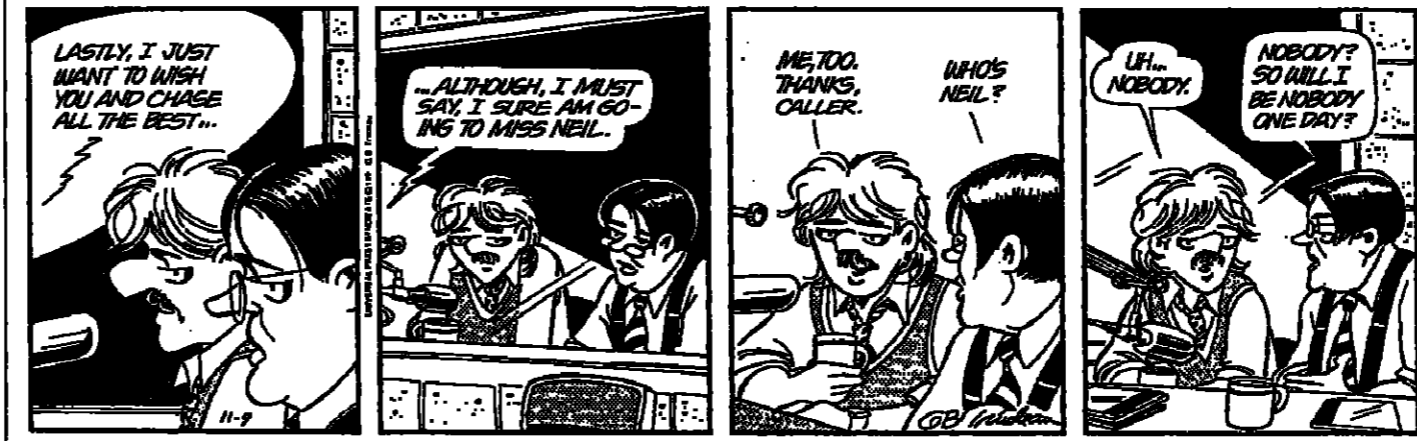
Remember those who served - by supporting those who are still serving

As we salute those who gave their lives, so too, we should support those who are still there to serve. just as we did during wartime, Royal Sailors' Rests, or 'Aggies', are still providing accommodation for sailors far from home, and community centre facilities for naval wives and families. 'Aggies' can also be a welcome source of spiritual comfort in times of need.

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Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

سكنا من الامل



Edward Dwyer with VC, left, 'You can't imagine'... Above, the Somme, 1916 IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Small, quiet voice from the Front

Awarded a VC at 19, Edward Dwyer was to die in battle on the Somme 80 years ago. But he left a rare memorial. Stephen Bates tracks down his story

IT ALL started with the voice. Crackling and faint, it echoed out from an old tape of first world war songs and reminiscences, a voice as distant as the time when it was recorded 80 years ago.

"They tell me you'd like to hear something of what our boys are doing at the front and although I'm only a youngster I've seen about as much fighting as is good for any man," it started.

The voice was youthful, maybe a man of 30, though I was later to learn that the speaker was only 21, and the accent twanged of London. But there was little to identify it on the tape notes except that it belonged to Sergeant E Dwyer, VC — that was correct, wasn't it? A corporal — and that it was a talk, little more than a couple of minutes long, entitled "With Our Boys at the Front."

It was recorded in 1916, but it wasn't the fact that it is, almost certainly, the only recording to survive of a soldier serving in the trenches, made at the time, that stuck in the mind. It was what the man said and how he said it, and why, that pummeled away, echoing around my head for days, an authentic voice from those spirited battalions of young men who marched away so joyously to slaughter on the Western Front.

It seemed clear that Dwyer's talk was done for recruitment purposes, but if so, who thought up the idea, and where would it have been played in the days before radio? If a propaganda exercise, had anyone first checked what he said? If so, the authorities were either incredibly naive, or much more cunning and sophisticated than we now give them credit for, for what Dwyer had to say was scarcely the sort of thing to fill the troops with keenness.

Being with Our Boys at the Front, it seemed, was not such a great experience. He had clearly been in the war from the very beginning, landing in France nine days after the declaration of hostilities on August 4 1914, he said, and taking part in the retreat from Mons.

"You people over here don't realise what our life was like in those days," the voice echoed plaintively. "That march from Mons

was a nightmare — unless you've been through it you can't imagine what an agonising time it was. We used to do from 20 to 25 miles a day."

Inconspicuously, the voice then burst into song, in a style that nowadays sounds almost like a parody of staccato: "There was only one thing that kept us going on the march and that was singing... I don't think I've got much of a voice but I'll try one or two of the choruses... Here We Are, Here We Are, Here We Are Again, Hello, Hello, Hello, Hello."

Then, with a final whoop, the voice died away, the final hellos hanging mournfully in the air as if calling out from the grave. I found myself asking who Dwyer could have been, how he won his Victoria Cross, why on earth he had been chosen for recording and what had happened to him then. The truth turned out to be almost unbearably poignant.

THE IMPERIAL War Museum had some basic details: born Fulham, November 25 1895, enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment, gazetted for bravery April 20 1915, so he was only a teenager when he won his medal and probably still less than 20 when he made his recording.

The Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, deep in the bowels of the old War Office building in Whitehall, had the citation. Dwyer won his VC at Hill 60 outside Ypres during one of the fiercest fights of the war. He had crept into the open to bind up the wounds of injured comrades lying in no man's land and then, when his trench was under attack from a group of German soldiers, clambered on to the parapet and hurled grenades until they died.

You should go and see the Surrey Regiment museum at Guildford, they said. And in a basement archive room, staffed by gentle and courtly retired colonels, dressed in comfortable cardigans and regimental ties, I finally came face to face with Edward Dwyer.

The picture was just as I had imagined it, young, thin, back-curved, receding chin, startled and bemused. The photographs were taken when he had come back to England to receive his medal from the King and help the recruitment

drive. Apart from the uniform and the straggly moustache he was trying to grow, he looked like the sort of adolescent young man you might pass in Fulham any Saturday afternoon.

There were pictures of him showing the medal to someone, posing with his dad and a family friend — looking suspiciously like the old man's boozing partner — and the picture of a young nurse Dwyer had married.

And there were the regimental scrapbooks too. Pages of yellowing cuttings from each day of the war. Proudly announcing Dwyer's medal, the Surrey Comet visited his parents at Fulham. "Aren't you proud of your boy?" they asked Mrs Dwyer.

"Yes, indeed I am," she replied, her face wreathed in smiles. "Ted was always a good boy and if he has got the VC I am sure he deserved it. He wrote home to tell us he was hurt but in his usual cool way he said, 'don't worry, it is not much... We would like to see our boy again, if only for a short while.'"

"Ted was always fond of a lark and at the same time always ready to do his part in any emergency."

Dwyer, it was claimed, was the youngest VC winner ever. He was being built up and the press were starting to call him the Little Corporal. The cuttings made it clear that he was too valuable to send straight back to the front. He was articulate and not afraid of speaking up.

His speeches had certainly been fiery, with no apparent trace of the hesitancy of the recording. One newspaper reported: "The indifference of many of the young fellows filled him with contempt: 'Is there not a single MAN here?' he declared at one meeting at which not a single recruit had come forward. 'I shall be glad to get back to the front. It makes me sick to see civilian clothes on the backs of men fit and able to do their share.'"

At Christmas 1915 he had married the young nurse in the photograph, Maudie Freeman, known as Billie, whom he had met in hospital before the front. Friends who had seen him again when she came to listen to the speeches at a rally in Trafalgar Square. It was such a quiet wedding that he did not even tell his parents in advance. He was,



'Although I'm only a youngster I've seen about as much fighting as is good for any man'

it was said, tired of the throngs and nervous of the publicity that would surround a hero's wedding.

There was more in the regimental archive too: photocopies of Dwyer's service papers. At his first medical examination, Dwyer was five feet three and a half inches tall, with a 32 inch waist and weighed 106 pounds, pulse 72, blue eyes, fair hair, scars on right kneecap and across his buttocks. He was described by his commanding officer as honest, sober and hard-working.

In summer 1914, he was with his regiment in Ireland but he was spending the summer in hospital: 46 days, being treated for what looks suspiciously like a distinctly venereal disease. "VD... sore in penis, left groin," the record says, unforgettingly.

There are two more medical records: October 24 1914, septic heel, admitted to hospital. That would have been just after the forced

marches from the Aisne to the Marne: "That march was a nightmare — you can't imagine what an agonising time it was."

There was also a head wound, from an injury a week after he won his medal and there would also be an outbreak of measles when he returned to the front in 1916.

The file also contains the letter in which Dwyer was recommended for his VC. His commanding officer, Captain RD Oldman, wrote on May 3 1915: "At Hill 60 on the 20th when his trench was heavily shelled, this man left cover and bound up several wounded comrades. Later, the trench being heavily hand-grenaded, he climbed halfway up the parapet and hurled grenades after grenade at the Germans until he expended them. He was at the time exposed to a perfect hail of hostile bombs as the party of Germans had crept up an old communication trench and were at

very close quarters. His gallantry was beyond all praise."

Can't you just see the slight young greengrocer's assistant, angered, maybe exhilarated and frightened, clambering up the trench to scream and throw grenades at the enemy 20 or 30 feet away for a few frenzied moments...

"I am only a youngster but I've seen as much fighting as is good for any man." Then, in a folder, was a letter to one of his former officers, written about 10 days after the action in which he won the VC.

"All the time serving men were being picked off. If you joined the regiment again, sir, you would hardly know one man except Elmer. It is very miserable in the regiment now all the old officers and men have gone."

"Well, sir, we went to Ypres and well we knew it, but the worst was yet to come. After the taking of Hill 60 the regiment went up there and

they shelled us for three days and nights without a stop but they could not shift us... It was there that we lost Major Patterson... poor Captain Wynyard was blown to atoms, only a couple of pieces could be found of him. If any of Capt. Wynyard's family enquire, don't tell them he was blown up. "Please excuse the scribble, Your Obedient Servant"

What must Dwyer have thought as he went round London in the months that followed, addressing recruitment rallies? Is there a hint that he didn't want to go back, or was he full-hearted for the fight, raring to go? When he went round his old school, he told the parish priest Father Brown: "I am going to the front again in a few days and the general rule is that a VC gets knocked out the second time." He left the medal to the priest's safe keeping.

DWYER returned to his regiment in May 1916. He was not among the men of the 8th East Surreys who rose from their lines on the first morning of the battle of the Somme on July 1 1916, kicking footballs as they marched vainly towards the enemy machine guns. But perhaps some of those he had helped to recruit were there.

Instead, Dwyer died a couple of months later. He was on the Somme on September 3 1916 when he was shot. The Surrey Comet said he "fell while gallantly leading his men on a charge". The daily regimental dispatches for that day do not mention the hero's fall. The duty officer wrote: "Brigade carried its objectives without difficulty and so far few casualties."

Corporal Dwyer is buried in a military cemetery called Flat Iron Cross, around the back of Messetz Wood, at the end of what was known as Death Valley on the Somme. Three pairs of brothers lie with him among the 1,500 men also killed within two or three weeks as the British tried to capture the wood and the land around it.

The cemetery lies down a quiet country track, in a fold of the valley. Dwyer's grave is like any of the rest. There is his name, his regimental crest, date of death, a carved Victoria Cross and a brief motto. It says: "We Know That He Abridged His Days." Just in front, someone has placed a cheap pink rose made of fabric and a little wooden, whitewashed cross.

Back at the regimental museum, a note dated September 2 1920 states that Dwyer's campaign medals were to be retained by the War Office as the deceased's legacies were untraceable.

Dwyer's Victoria Cross eventually came home to the regiment in 1982. It is not on display at the museum. It had been found in a box among Father Brown's effects after he died. He had never given it away, never given it to the family, or the wife. Did they ever ask? Did he ever refuse?

And there it all lies: the story of just one of the 750,000 British men of the first world war who never came home. Alone among them though, this one left a recording of his voice and so a little bit of him still lives.

The recording of Private Dwyer's voice is on *The Great War*, a tape and compact disc published by Gemm. CD 9555 tape 7355. *The Museum of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment* is at the Royal Park, near Guildford. It is now closed for the winter. The Public Record Office at Kew has a current exhibition including Private Dwyer's Army papers.

In sickness and in health, to love, honour and oh, boy

Maureen Freely on the growth of the marriage-mending industry

WHY DOES Britain have the highest divorce rate in Europe? According to Lord Mackay and something called the Marriage Task Force, it's because couples are going through "bad patches" don't get help soon enough. To remedy this alarming national trend, he is planning to invest in pilot counselling schemes that aim to prevent marriage that aim to prevent marriage breakdown. He's also suggested it might be a good idea to strike before the iron's cold and put some money into education and pre-nuptial training.

And you can see his point. The fewer unrealistic expectations couples have before they make their vows, and the more help they get afterwards, the more likely it becomes that they will stay together. If they don't, the plunge, that is, does Lord Mackay have any idea what damage he'll do to the institution of marriage if he dares to let wavering couples find out what it's like in practice?

Just think of all the unpleasant things you have to know if you are going to go into married life, well

prepared, I'm not just talking about basic skills like cooking and driving and going without privacy and sharing all your money, even if no one thanks you and you've worked like a dog for it. And I don't just mean basic virtues like learning to love your partner's annoying little habits, or welcoming the thought that you'll never again be able to make an evening plan without first seeking his or her permission, or training yourself to hope that you'll still be sexually irresistible to each other when you've both doubled in age and weight.

If you're going to be ready for any marital eventuality, you have to be *au fait* with the very depressing national statistics on marital violence, child abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, unplanned pregnancy, adultery, mid-life crisis and mental illness. You have to have accepted that there can't be many people who don't get a front seat view of at least one of these marriage-wrecking tragedies.

And you must go on to prepare yourself for that worst-case scenario. This is why a thorough pre-nuptial training course would give you not just the communications

techniques for those nice, middle-class, rubbish-and-credit-card disputes, and the wisdom demanded by those more serious but manageable rough patches caused by childbirth, temporary unemployment, and low-level infidelity, but also the survival skills you might need if you woke up tomorrow morning and found out your name was Mrs Ganza, or even worse, Mrs Boycott.

If marriages like theirs are even one in 100, it would suggest that the most appropriate agencies to submit bids to Lord Mackay for marriage training schemes are the SAS and the St John Ambulance Service.

Which brings me to another, even bigger headache the Lord Chancellor is going to have to face if he refuses to rely solely on marriage-patching measures and tries to tackle the root causes of divorce. It will not be long before he has to ask himself why it is that most divorce petitioners are women. He will ask himself how many of their ex-husbands fell short of his own standards of good husbandhood, and then he will have to acknowledge that some genders need more marriage training than others. Woe to

him, though, if he seeks expert guidance. He will soon discover that there are a lot of serious people out there who think that the national marriage crisis is nothing more than a smokescreen for the worldwide male identity crisis.

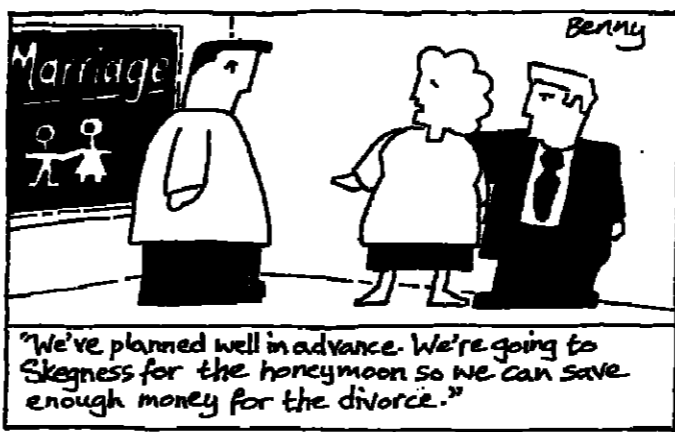
Now that they have to be entrepreneurs at the Richard Branson level before they can hope to raise a family on a single income, they are no longer sure what you have

to do to be a masculine husband. When their wives suggest that they might start by doing a load of laundry, they sink into an even deeper psychic confusion. The only way to get them out is to offer more education, training and support, but even that won't be enough, will it? Because if men as a group become more competent and resourceful in the so-called women's domain, there will be a crisis of confidence

amongst women as a group, which will lead in turn to another vicious inflationary cycle of wife-taming, marriage-saving pilot programmes and even university degree courses.

It's all going to be very expensive, not to say colossaly boring. The sermons we get on Compromise, Commitment and the Common Good are had enough as it is. Imagine how much more urgently they'll be advertising the joys of co-creating if the government has sunk real money into marriage training and wants vote-winning results.

It's not enough to say, oh well, there's something really wonderful that happens after romantic love dies and you learn to accept your spouse as a flawed human being. I might know that and you might know that, but that's because we went through blindfolded first. There are some things you can't do unless you've lost all touch with reality and one of them is marriage. If Lord Mackay is successful in his campaign, I think we'll find more and more couples putting off their wedding days for longer and longer, maybe even forever.



arts

We'd rather watch Oprah

Our great opera companies could be staging modern dramas like *Marriage Of Gazza* or *Diana Dolorosa*. Instead we get yet more *Cosi* and *Turandot*. No wonder the public switches off, says **Stephen Plaice**

EVER since opera got a makeover at the end of the eighties, there has been the vague expectation that it is about to become popular. But the promise of *Nessun Dorma* has never been fulfilled. To most people — who never go near a theatre anyway — opera still means a few humdrum tunes, tenors slugging it out with handkerchiefs at 10 paces, and the fat lady shattering glass at a hundred.

All that is now left of the enthusiasm that surged during Italia 90 and peaked on a rainy night in Hyde Park are hasty compilations of favourite arias. Opera continues to be "not for us", and to conjure murderous thoughts of braying upper-class beanfeasts at which public money is squandered for the gross indulgence of the few. The public feels shut out from opera houses and the social culture of those who frequent them.

And this sense of exclusion even extends to many who venture inside. For the novice, there is the suspicion that the whole operation is sustained on a thermal cushion of pretension. Everyone pretends to enjoy what they are watching, in reality they long for the ghostly enterprise to end so they can get back to the telly. As with the emperor's new clothes, it would take just one person to cry the truth, and the illusion would be shattered.

But could this not-for-us prejudice conceal a deeper resentment among ordinary people, who realise they have been denied a crucial cultural experience? Opera can be the greatest spectacle on earth — a breathtaking combination of music, drama and scenic effect. It is the last live medium in which a culture might create an expansive vision of itself. Instead, it appears to be reserved for a reactionary elite with the money and the manners to penetrate the forbidding front of house with its penguin suits and plummy accents.

Where are the operas that will appeal to a mass audience or say anything about our lives? It is not as if we have a shortage of modern heroes to draw on. Forget *Figaro* — where is *The Marriage Of Diana*, or of *Gazza* that matter? That theatre, let alone opera, once belonged to everyone has become a cliché. But the possibility that it might one day do so again is still valid and its operation can still feel like theft. This was the thrust of *The Beggar's Opera*, first performed in 1728, in which John Gay set out to lam-

poon the fashion for Italian recitative opera, then taking over the London stage and putting English playwrights out of work.

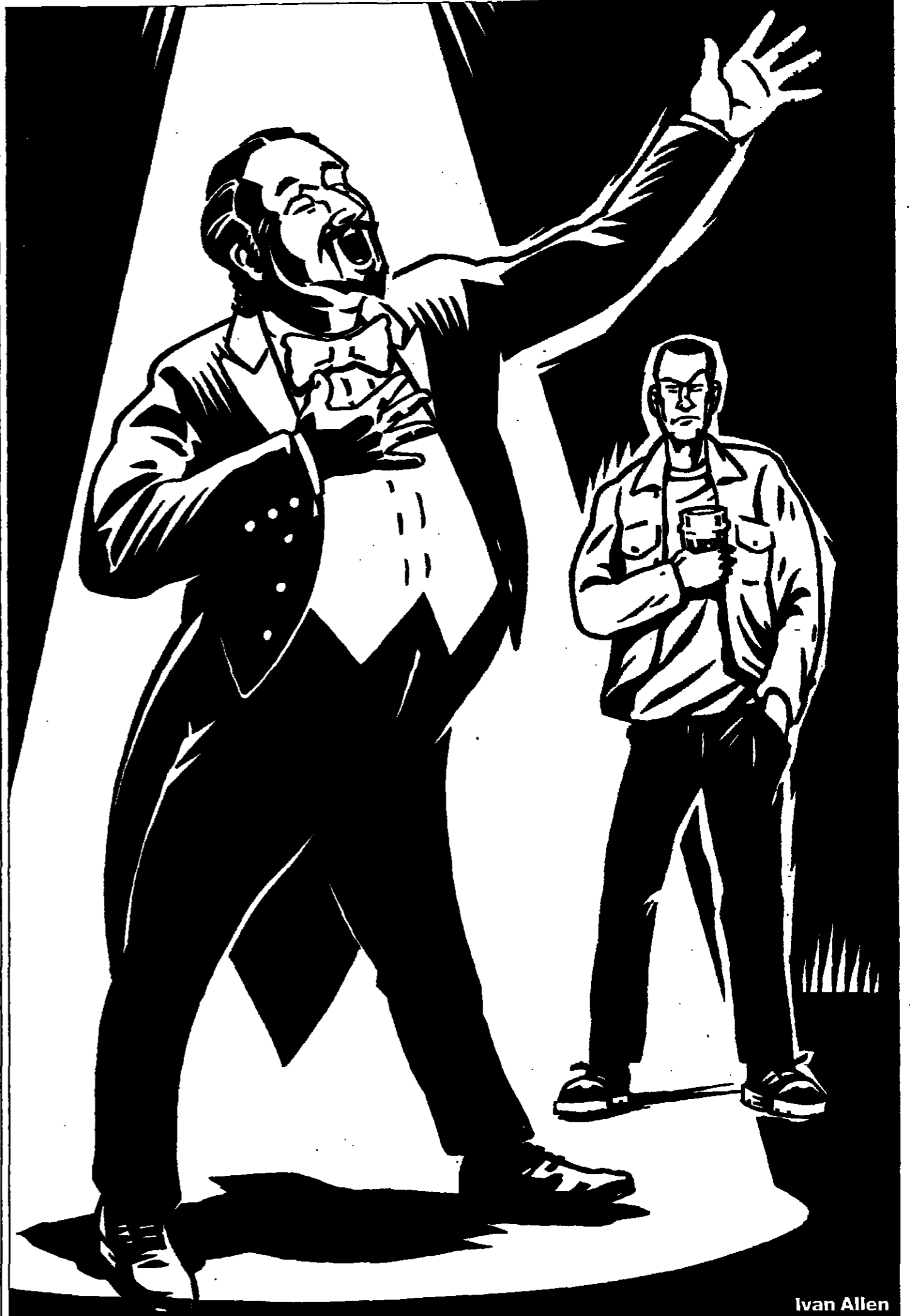
What incensed Gay was that the plots of these new-fangled operas were ludicrous, the characters invariably idealised ciphers there to facilitate the singing. By situating his opera among London low life, Gay was cocking a snook at the artificiality of the entertainment the upper classes had imported for themselves. And by having his beggar author ape its conventions, he was sticking up two fingers at the pretension of a theatre that had lost contact with its own reality.

But *The Beggar's Opera* also contains an evergreen political truth missing from the effete Italian scenarios: Gay wanted to demonstrate the economic complicity between those who sit in the boxes of opera houses and those who sit in the cells of Newgate. No matter what exquisite and noble pretensions the new opera offered, it could not deodorise the stench of corruption that permeated every layer of the society that imported it.

The Beggar's Opera restored the possibility of a theatre for everyone, even those who dipped, pinched and prostituted themselves around Covent Garden. By writing about their world, Gay was reclaiming musical theatre for the streets from where it sprang and to which it must always return for inspiration. Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill attempted a similar reclamation. Their adaptation of Gay's play, *The Threepenny Opera*, became the basis of a new type of opera at the end of the 1920s, using a simplified musical language that could be sung by laymen.

But unlike searchlight rallies, this new opera never caught on in Germany, and post-war opera houses and audiences throughout the world have continued to content themselves with overlong culinary operas and overpaid stars engaging in larynx Olympics.

Even when a radical new opera does manage to slip through the net, it is likely that it will only be seen by the very establishment that it is targeting. This was even true of *The Beggar's Opera*, which was a great hit with London society — including Sir Robert Walpole, satirised in the aria *If You Mention Alice Quill*. What irony — the rich, powerful and corrupt trapped in their gilt boxes, forced to see themselves and their world undermined on stage, and enjoying it all



Ivan Allen

SHOOTING STARS

RISING: REBECCA LOCK



Up... Spring 1996. The all-singing, all-dancing French peasantry take to the boards in *Martin Guerre*. Critics and audience agree there's something missing... Meanwhile, Rebecca sits at home, dreaming of her big break.

Up... An association with the National Youth Music Theatre takes Lock from New York to Hong Kong, from West End to Edinburgh. *Martin Guerre*, meanwhile, is falling to find a bum for each seat. What's to do?

And away... *Martin Guerre* is re-launched this week with a new star. Lock plays glibbie heroine *Bertrande de Rois* 'at certain performances'.

FALLING: JAMES ELLIS



Going... After 16 years in *Z Cars*, James bows out in 1978. "I'm writing songs, reading a play for the West End and hoping to direct in the theatre," he announces.

Going... Two years down the line, he's bankrupt and owes the taxman £11,000. When will he return to the big time? "Be, patient," says he.

Come... This week, 16 years later, James hits the stage of the Tabard in Chiswick, in *The Bedstid*. He plays a middle-aged Irishman sitting in a dingy bedstid contemplating his past.

hugely. (Or maybe just pretending to: Polly Gay's sequel to the Beggar's Opera was banned.)

I was reminded of Gay while watching Pimlico Opera's production of *West Side Story* in Bullingdon Prison, now transferring to Mountjoy in Dublin, despite cackling from the Daily Mail about the participation of sex offenders. The gusto with which the inmates explored the world of the New York ghetto gave the piece an added relevance, and the chorus left Fidelio standing. Behind bars, Gee Officer Krupke had a resonance that must have had Gay rotating with glee. "We ain't no delinquents! We're misunderstood! Deep down inside us is good."

It brought the house down every night. Maybe this was not strictly opera — according to limited and stupidly snobbish definition — but the production showed how music theatre belongs to all sections of

society. Given the chance, any community will eagerly embrace it.

So why not opera for all? And why not a new repertoire that sings to post-modern sensibilities, addresses our notoriously short attention span and exploits our film-trained facility with rapid images?

Today, new operas are expensive and unpopular. Main-house audiences feel cheated by them. Many singers, musicians and managers prefer to work in the museum of the existing repertoire, rather than risk anything contemporary. When Don Giovanni tells of his lovers in France, Germany and Spain, he could just as well be counting the Mozart operas produced annually in those countries.

There will be the token Tippett or Britten revival if you are lucky but by and large the feeling persists that budgets are frozen after Stravinsky. Innovative directors

like Peter Sellars will find a way of refreshing the canon by radicalising the stage concept, or updating the action, but even this is no substitute for contemporary writing and a culture that uses opera, like any other art form, as a means of reflecting and investigating itself.

As one might expect in the new van-hire economy of Britain, some self-help is at hand. Small-scale touring companies, ambitious community projects, Pimlico's prison work, Susan Bonn and Robert Saxton's annual Opera Lab, all contribute to making opera more accessible and more exploratory. There is a new breed of singers, composers and musicians, prepared to workshop and perform new work. But it is very difficult for this to emerge on any scale or to be properly resourced.

Because of prohibitive production costs, a vast chasm exists between composition and produc-

tion. Yet, rather than being used to close this gap, countless millions of public money are to be spent refurbishing the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to reproduce the canon for generations to come.

Without new work that speaks to our predicament, and a dismantling of popular prejudice, audiences and practitioners will be condemned, like Sisyphus, to an eternity of rolling the same rock up the same hill. A genuine popularisation of the genre will never take place, no matter what marketing strategies are employed to kid us that opera is the new rock 'n' roll.

Of course there must always be Flutes, Fidelios and *Carmens*. But there must also be *Gazzas*, *Mandelas* and *Diana Dolorosas*.

Stephen Plaice is a writer for *The Bill*. His libretto for *Misep*, a new opera for teenagers by John Lunn, will be staged at Glyndebourne next spring.

Toni Strasburg won awards for her first film about war orphans. So why, she asks, is Channel 4 pitching the sequel at insomniacs?

The late, late show

Provocations

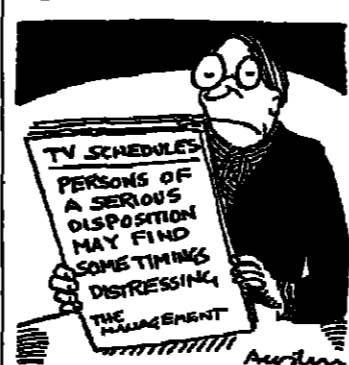
LAST week I was on the jury of an international film festival in Freiburg, Germany. One of the winners, well-known documentary maker from Belgium, announced that this would be his last international film. The reasons? Lack of money, lack of interest on the part of broadcasters in subjects outside of Europe. I, too, as a documentary filmmaker. And I, too, have decided that I cannot carry on making films in the current climate.

My latest film, *Chain Of Hope*, about children affected by war in southern Africa, is to be broadcast on Sunday on Channel 4. Unfortunately it is being transmitted at midnight. Have you ever stayed up until 1am on a Sunday to watch a documentary? I haven't.

Broadcasting serious documentaries at this hour of the night is frankly insulting. I can no longer face spending so much time raising money, working in war zones under difficult circumstances, only to have my work marginalised like this.

Yet a survey being carried out by Unicef shows the opposite to be true. We are also told that this sort of film gets low ratings — but might that not be something to wish the scheduling? I believe that we are witnessing the death of a certain type of documentary. Children and war have been headline news in Europe in recent years. We are touched by the stories of children from Bosnia, but seldom hear about the hundreds of thousands of children worldwide continuously affected by war.

In 1988 I made the award-winning *Chain Of Tears*, which exposed the effects of war on children in Angola, Mozambique and South Africa. At that



time more children were affected by war in these countries than anywhere else in the world. It was shown on Channel 4 in Britain, and on many television stations worldwide. But the wars continued, and so did the children's suffering.

Last year, I went back to southern Africa in search of the children from the original film, to discover whether children affected by war can recover. *Chain Of Hope*, the result, was completed last November. Although the commissioning editor had been supportive, he was unable to confirm a broadcast date for it. Only now, a year after completion, has Channel 4 been able to find a slot for it. I am told it is not "unusual" to be given such a late slot, especially for a story that does not "fit" into the regular documentary strands. Apparently even a positive story of children affected by war is no longer deemed interesting to the public.

With the images from Zaire that we are now seeing on the news, I would have thought positive images of children affected by war would be important. But Channel 4 seems to believe that "games" based around sending young people out into the night to hide from pursuers are more in line with public tastes.

As for the BBC, it rejected the original proposal for *Chain Of Hope* because it felt that southern Africa had been cov-

ered enough during the South African elections and the Africa '95 arts series.

Television rarely has the power to change policy, but it can and should make people think, as well as entertain. I feel very passionately that the collective conscience needs to be kept alive. The media has a duty to document what is happening in the world, despite the increasing struggle for finance and air time.

A two-for-one book offer aimed at those who know what a deft touch, skilled technique and superb finishing really are. (It has nothing to do with football.)

Curious, but we have come to a place, a time, when virtue is no longer considered a virtue. Maya Angelou, best-selling author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, gives us her intimate thoughts on family, style, brutality, crime and the necessity for spirit, laughter and grace. *Wouldn't it take nothing for my journey now* is Maya Angelou's first work of prose in many years, and is filled with the wit, wisdom and insight we have come to expect from this lyrical poet and tenacious civil rights activist.

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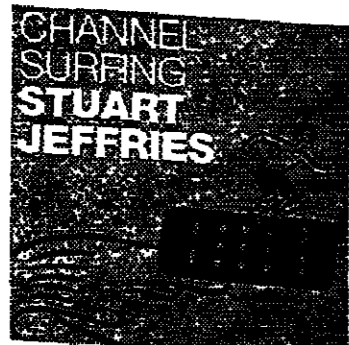
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سكنا من الالعاب



Homer alone

TELEVISION channels were children. ITV would be a coy, errant boy the despair of its parents. "You've been dead again, haven't you?" "Yes, but I never meant..." "Well, try harder next time." But nothing would change: the grades would regularly be lousy and he would often smell slightly foetid. Especially when Coronation Street was on. ITV's Faith In The Future is about as good as comedy on the channel gets... BBC1 has only been contrary when Absolutely Fabulous was on.

The show became too much part of the zeitgeist to be really lovable, and in the last minutes of the final episode it self-destructed into celebrity cameos. But at least it was committedly dissolute, and shown on the same station on which your parents watched The Antiques Roadshow. BBC2 is a child that gets on with its homework all week, but on Saturday morning has to be picked up from the police station, giggling from soft drugs. It's been out all night, trying to be as bad as Channel 4. But it couldn't pull it off: Julian Clary was your mother's idea of queer subversion; Vic and Bob were too in love with the celebrities and game shows they sent up. Sky is an attention-seeker. For a fortnight, not an ad break has gone by on Sky's channels without a plug for tonight's Judgment Night, a themed seven kinds of hype out of each other. Please buy a £14.95 ring-side seat. Please. But Sky is an adept salesman. "If you liked Friends, you'll love Mad About You", ran the trailers for the latest Manhattan sex comedy. It's a desperate pitch: this is an apartment-based sitcom from the conveyor belt that brought you Caroline In The City. It's about a couple. Paul is charming and creative, but also cautious and analytical. Jamie is more impulsive and confrontational. Or so says the press release. Stuart is analytical and confrontational: unless they are Seinfeld, get these New Yorkers out of my living room now! Television isn't only a child. It is a parent, soul-mate, friend, consolation. Only the makers of The Simpsons realise this. Bart and Lisa regularly hug the television in preference to their mom and dad. It is stable and nurturing, unlike Marge and Homer. An effective episode on Thursday ended with the dad, Homer, himself cradling the TV. He had been subjected to trial by television, wrongly accused of sexual harassment, and then found innocent and vindicated. "Let's never quarrel again," the errant Homer begged his electronic lover.

WAVE RIDING ANNE KARP

integrated them with his strengths. It's only because Redhead was so consistently idealised when he was alive that we feel such a frisson of shock. But that was nothing next to one's feelings for the late Ken Saro-Wiwa after hearing two of his short stories, broadcast by Radio 4 to mark the first anniversary of his execution. The first, Dilemma, was a workmanlike but undistinguished piece. But the second, On The Death Of Ken Saro-Wiwa, is another matter. It depicts a writer called Saro-Wiwa, visited in jail by one General Genocidio, who's come to alert him that he's "a mortuary candidate" because he uniquely, it seems, among the Ogonis — has impeded the completion of an oil pipeline. In the story Saro-Wiwa duly dies and gets "the burial of a little man [given] a well-deserved international funeral". Was this a writer's admirably unsentimental, clear-sighted confrontation with his own imminent end (down to the problem of disposing of the corpse), mixed in with satirical political parable — a cheeky bit of posthumous agitprop? Or was it a giant act of narcissism? The threat of death doesn't usually enhance the creative juices, nor does writing with an eye to immortality (though many do it). In the end, this story left me feeling uneasy as if Saro-Wiwa was amplifying his own celebrity. I can understand why he might have felt the need, but was the BBC right to broadcast it? Finally, how do you cover an election whose result is a foregone conclusion? In the early fall hours of The Race For The White House, before the polls had closed and there was anything to say, Radio 5 Live had three tactics. First, aides' propaganda by the yard, full of that untenably fake optimism that their guy will win, even if he's called Ross Perot. Second, name padding in the form of questions like, "When will the President appear?" Third, endless reports from election parties in the US and London. At times it sounded as if the alcohol-fuelled parties were getting more coverage than the political ones.

Brian of Nazareth

IT'S CURIOUS the way that some public figures are accorded "listed" status, like notable buildings needing protection from spoliation. These people — from Alan Bennett to the Queen Mother — come to stand for some quality, often of Englishness and indomitability, that we value: they convey us to us, ourselves as we would like to be. Brian Redhead was one such, evidenced by the tributes that flowed on his death. I was never one of those who felt devastated at the prospect of breakfast sans Redhead: though I did admire his preternaturally relaxed and chipper broadcasting style, I found his later radio pronouncements irritatingly bombastic. Now I learn, from the revealingly titled Radio Lives: The Real Life Of Brian (Radio 4) that many of these weren't written by him at all. The chief charges are that Redhead told fibs about his past — inventing a non-existent court martial, for example, from which he purportedly extricated himself with brio; that he was vain and self-regarding; that although he later raised God and religion after the tragic death of his son, actually most of his religious programmes and many of his public utterances on the subject were scripted by his producer Gillian Bush. Though not a flattering portrait, this was no hatchet job: Michael Bywater's fond, forgiving and rather compelling programme never glossed over Redhead's flaws, yet subtly

Let's talk about sex, says Derek Malcolm. Everyone else at the London Film Festival is: Nick Broomfield (Fetishes), Stephen Frears (The Van), and Jan Svěrák, with the best discovery so far Running for Mrs Whitehouse

IN JAN Svěrák's Kolya, a Czech cellist quietly uses his bow to lift the dress of a pretty soprano soloist while she is singing with the orchestra; in Nick Broomfield's Fetishes a customer of Pandora's Box S&M parlour licks a lavatory seat; and there are so many four-letter words in Stephen Frears's The Van that Mary Whitehouse would bury her head in her hands. No one could say that the first few days of the 40th London Film Festival have lacked excitement, of a sort. Perhaps the best surprise was Kolya, though Elementar School, Svěrák's first film, showed that the hit-sweet comedy of the Czech cinema of Jiri Menzel and Milos Forman — which so delighted the West in the sixties — is capable of being partially resurrected. Kolya, a rambly middle-aged cellist down on his luck, agrees to a bogus marriage with a Russian woman for money. Unfortunately she almost immediately takes off, leaving her five-year-old son for

him to look after. He doesn't like children, but slowly and surely the boy begins to intrigue him, even when the lad breaks into the bedroom where he is trying to seduce a young pupil. Set at the time of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, the film is written by Svěrák's father, who also plays the title role with a quiet, almost impassive acting style that is surprisingly effective when set against the naturalness of the inquisitive and uncomprehending child. It's the kind of film that carries distinct reminders of the good old days of Czech humanism and, though it hasn't the imaginative brio of something like Closely Observed Trains or Peter And Paul, it is one of the few best European films that look capable of charming audiences everywhere. Charm is not the word one would use for Nick Broomfield's Fetishes. But the director, inveigling his camera into yet another place where angels would fear to tread, might well be let into heaven itself if he kept that rueful, beatific smile on his face.

In this case, he films the highly successful and dignified scions of New York society as they go to get their bottoms smacked and their nipples pulled by their favoured dominatrix. The working girls view Broomfield with some disdain, but answer his questions all the same and let him view some of the tricks with which they bring these sad creatures to orgasm. You keep fearing that this is going to be a totally exploitative documentary. But, though certainly no more pure than the driven slush, it never really falls into that trap. His gentle digging just produces an extraordinary portrait of a society where absolutely anything goes providing you have the money to start the engine, and everybody's favourite sexual fantasy, however absurd, is catered for providing not too much blood is let. If this is the film Channel 4 dare not show, Abel Ferrara's The Funeral ought to have no trouble on the telly, provided the children have gone safely to bed. It should do pretty well in the cinemas, too. A lot of people seem to think it

is the best film Ferrara has made, surpassing King Of New York and Bad Lieutenant, and it is certainly his most orthodox in structure and least hysterical in tone. This thirties-set tale about three Italian-American brothers immersed in a protection racket seems to me to be no more than a well-orchestrated bag of Mafia clichés. But at least the cast is worth watching, with Christopher Walken contributing another of his tight-skinned, lizard-eyed monsters as the domineering elder brother. The women, too, are given a bit more to do than usual, and both Annabella Sciorra and Isabella Rossellini profit by it. If this is an entertaining movie, though, it's basically a pretty banal one. Frears's The Van, written like The Commitments and The Snapper by Roddy Doyle, comes out shortly. Unfortunately the flowing F-words sometimes seem like the last resort. Besides, an Irishman I know assured me that no one there swears like that in front of the children, especially from the working class.

LFF highlights THE festival's first weekend offers sobering material for students of the human condition. David Cronenberg's Crash (Odeon West End, today, 8pm) looks like Wacky Knocs compared with Catherine Breillat's Parfait Amour (Perfect Love) (Odeon West End, today, 8.30pm), a chilly anatomy of amour fou, or just plain co-dependency if you prefer. Ulrich Seidl's documentary Animal Love (NFT tomorrow, 6.15pm) makes you glad you aren't a dog in Austria (or a weasel, worse still). A determinedly uncharming look at pet owners and their aberrations, the film maintains a ghastly comedy throughout. Meanwhile, proof that Swinging London '66 really is better than its 1968 counterpart comes in The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus (Odeon West End, today, 11.15pm), the long-lost account of Mick and chums hosting a Big Top extravaganza. Though it now looks a touch cheap and cheerful, the film generally lives up to its legend. Jonathan Romney

What do you get if you mix classical, jazz and pop? John Harle. John Fordham reports



Elvis lives... Harle and Costello perform Shakespeare

Big, bad John

The adventure

THERE'S nothing half-hearted about John Harle. This big, deceptively easy-going man, with a merciless line in mockery — of himself and others — fell in love with the saxophone at a time in the seventies when hardly anybody else in classical music took it seriously. That might have helped him cope later with the frenzy that greeted his rendition of Elton John's "Bennie and the Jets" at the 1995 Last Night Of The Proms. Harle plays everything he touches with conviction, whether it's his show or not. As Michael Nyman's regular saxophonist, it's his delicately incisive soprano sax you can hear on that composer's famous soundtrack for the film The Piano. An ex-Army bandsman who often hilariously reconstructs the Bilko-esque antics of his military days, Harle loves the classical world's precision and order, but dilutes its conservatism of repertoire. He is testing musical tolerances to the limit by touring a band that combines a string quartet, a classical soprano, jazz saxist Andy Sheppard, and Elvis Costello singing Shakespeare. "People now expect composers to have multi-disciplinary skills, but it's about musical coherence more than simply expecting audiences to go 'Wow!' if you just throw a string quartet and a group of panpipers from the Andes on a stage together. I've tried not to take people out of context." Nailing his colours to the mast with typical brio, he has called the show (and the newly released album) Terror And Magnificence. Nothing so frivolous for him as an Evening With John And Elvis. It plays its final gig at the Royal Festival Hall tonight as part of the Oris London Jazz Festival. In Manchester earlier this week, the band played to an initially reserved audience of classical fans surprised by the volume. Sheppard fans surprised by the careful order. Costello fans surprised by the lack of rock 'n' roll. But the point grew on them. The Sheppard fans shifted a little closer to the edges of their seats when the jazzman's swooping, buffeting tenor sax soliloquies began to intertwine with Harle's pure, stately lyricism. Costello's high whistles cheered his handling of O Mistress Mine.

"People singing Shakespeare are usually afraid of singing the songs for the emotions that are really in them — they're worried about missing some crucial ur-text," said Harle afterwards. "But Declan (Costello) just swears that aside." Terror And Magnificence itself, a long two-saxophone feature moving between haunting, ethereal high-note themes and thrashing, percussive odysseys, revealed more of its intended tensions than it has before. The collisions between what sound like eighties club grooves and the 14th-century French poetry on the backing tape were far less distracting than they have been previously — though if Harle's music could be tightened, it might be by curbing his fondness for the unambiguous soft-funk you can hear on that occasionally put banana skins under the philosophical speculations of the titles. Harle once let on that he feared Sheppard's spontaneity, while Sheppard was anxious about Harle's precision. But the interplay between the two is now remarkably relaxed. And the contrast of the voices — Costello's bruised, yearning sound on the Shakespeare sonnets, Sarah Leonard's cool, unfussy clarity — remains treacherously familiar material to make it glow again with a certain light. If Harle rejects the convenient crossover tag, does he still perceive himself as a classical musician on a gig like this? "I choose to be regarded as a classical musician," he says emphatically. "I believe in classical proportion and classical reasonings." "But there's room for extemporisation, when it's knitted within the proportions. Andy and I did Hunting The Hare completely differently and about twice as long in Manchester as we did elsewhere, but it was still absolutely true to the structure." Hunting The Hare began out of nowhere in Manchester — a wild, whooping sax exchange turning to the soft caress of the theme and then contrasting Sheppard's gritty sonorosity against Harle's haughty delicacy. It was maybe the best example of what Harle is driving at. Both artists embraced the idea of music as written, but both had the space to be utterly themselves. John Harle's band plays the Royal Festival Hall in London tonight. The Terror And Magnificence CD is out on the Decca/Argo label.

RADIO 1 LOVE SEMINARS TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER Ticket to ride, What's in a gig? Wednesday 13 NOVEMBER Careers, how to get a job in the business? Thursday 14 NOVEMBER Radio 1's Pop Quiz

Jonathan Cope wasn't there for Prince Of The Pagodas — a motorcycle accident saw to that. But Darcey Bussell was, and Judith Mackrell Happy return

The classic?

WHEN Prince Of The Pagodas was premiered in 1989 it was a milestone production for the Royal. It was the ballet with which MacMillan finally made his truce with the Opera House after a long, uneasy absence, creating his first full-length work since his disastrous Isadora. It was the ballet, too, in which he famously pinned Darcey Bussell out of the corps and turned her into a star. And it was the ballet that launched Bussell's partnership with Jonathan Cope. Its revival is a good moment to reappraise Pagodas' status. Is it a classic or not? Unfortunately the motorist who bumped Cope off his motorbike two weeks ago had no respect for

Happy return

baller history. So instead of revisiting the title role as planned, Cope was at home mending a broken rib. His place at Bussell's side was taken by Stuart Cassidy. Cassidy has danced the role before, but not with Bussell, and Pagodas is unfortunately a ballet where you need to know your partner well. The central pas de deux are unrelenting — pirouettes that wilfully push against the movement's natural flow, lifts and balances that can be demolished by a split second's hesitation. There were certainly moments where you sensed a bit of breath and a hasty readjustment in Bussell and Cassidy's partnering. But they weren't serious enough to get in the way of a calm second look at MacMillan's ballet — and the recognition that Pagodas, contro-

Imposing his dance over Britten's

versal at its opening, still provokes both annoyance and awe. Georgiadis's designs continue to look impressive, their surreal mix of Jacobean and oriental imagery both brutal and exquisite. Britten's score, however, is as frustrating as it is enchanting. The theatrical set pieces for the four wicked Kings and the Prince (who's been bewitched into a salamander) are full of strange lights and haunting rhythms that inspire MacMillan to startling invention. But in other passages MacMillan has trouble imposing his dance over Britten's high floating lines and choppy rhythms. With choreography and music so at odds, neither tell the story well and it remains a ballet of doggedly disjointed effects. The performances, though, hold up strongly. Bussell created Princess Rose when she was only 20 — and her trump card was her artless courage. Now the inviolate innocence with which she surrounds Rose is a more calculated quality — but far more compelling. Bussell has grown up and she knows how to carry a core of stillness in her dancing and how to phrase a movement so that it hangs vibrating in the air. She makes serene sense out of the most asymmetric challenges the choreography can throw at her. Cassidy as her Prince doesn't possess the slithering length of limb that made Cope so elegant a salamander, but he compensates with a reptilian urgency — his body flickering between light and dark, quickness and immobility — that is mesmerising. The Kings are evily excellent, and if Christina McDermott doesn't quite dominate the stage as the had sister Epina, the

two 4 one Guardian The Observer

Rugby Union

Robert Armstrong on the intense scrutiny facing England's new leader as he enters the perpetual danger zone of Test captaincy

Pressure points for de Glanville

ONEYMORN periods in international sport are supposed to last for at least a month, yet less than 48 hours after being unveiled as the England captain...

It's already very tough and it's going to be fiercely competitive. If the England coach Jack Rowell's greatest talent lies in the area of man-management...

The main challenge will be to pull everything together and concentrate on playing the Italians, who are a very difficult side. Winning may no longer be the only thing for England...



Friends and rivals... de Glanville and Guscott still talking to each other

I'm confident I'll still be around to lead England into the next World Cup

club form. Who would de Glanville prefer to play with: a stylish Bath pack with years between the sublime and the indifferent in an England shirt or Carling who, good or bad, never gives less than 100 per cent, physically and mentally?

Coaches play down role of Murrayfield Test substitutes

TODAY'S Test between Scotland and Australia will be the first that can feature tactical substitutions. But Richie Dixon and Greg Smith, the coaches of the two sides, said they hope these 15 first-choice players will start and finish the game at Murrayfield.

I would then take the very strong risk in the interests of the team, but I hope it does not happen. The hooker Federico Mendez, Bath's new signing and Argentina's first professional, has been included in the national side to meet South Africa in the first of two Tests in Buenos Aires today.

Yes, the management want individuals to express themselves but they must do that as part of a team effort. de Glanville admitted. "Obviously form can fluctuate and it's important to have a captain who's playing well. That's why I don't think I should be appointed for any longer than one season at a time. Anyway, that system helps to keep you on your toes."

Sport in brief

Llanelli lock banned for taking steroids

PAUL JONES, the Wales B lock, has been banned for two years by a Welsh Rugby Union tribunal after being found guilty of taking testosterone. The tribunal has backdated the ban to August 15, when the tests took place...

Kafelnikov in the black

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV, the top seed and French Open champion, played his best tennis of the tournament to beat Zimbabwe's two-listed Byron Black 7-6, 6-3 to earn a Kremlin Cup semi-final meeting today with David Prinosil...

Roe has tabs on Price

NICK PRICE yesterday discovered the depth of golf talent on the European Tour when he reached six under par at the halfway stage of the 28th Anniversary Hassan Trophy...

Colin Montgomerie coped with the wet fairways and monsoon conditions to stay in touch with the leaders of the eight-player, country-hopping Johnnie Walker Super Tour in Manila.

Salisbury slips from Sussex

SUSSEX lock resigned to losing their Test leg-spinner Ian Salisbury who is understood to be considering offers from Surrey and Northamptonshire. Sussex's new captain Peter Moores said: "Ian is a quality bowler and although I can try and persuade him to stay, I cannot beg and there's nothing I can do if he wants to go."

Star class on the wane

THE International Sailing Federation Council has endorsed the changes in the selection of the Olympic classes, replacing the Star with the 49er, writes Rob Fisher. The council has also agreed a new set of racing rules, to be implemented on April 1 next year.

Wilkinson has cutting edge

HOWARD WILKINSON is the favourite to become the Football Association's first technical director, but no appointment appears to be imminent. The England coach Glenn Hoddle is expected to meet the FA's chief executive Graham Kelly next week to discuss a shortlist of at least three names for the new position...

Results

Soccer EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP Qualifying round Group Two Georgia (0) 0 England (0) 1 Denmark (0) 0 Wales (1) 0 Norway (0) 0 Armenia (0) 0 Bulgaria (0) 0 Thailand (0) 0

Weekend fixtures

SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division Falkirk v Stirling Mirren v Clydebank Second Division Ayr v Stirling Albion Dumfries v Clyde Hamilton v Stranraer Dundee v Perth

Results

(US) 71, 71; C. Sureson (Sp) 72, 70, 148 W. Weather (BA) 71, 72, 144 T. Torrance 72, 68 C. Chapman 71, 72 M. Ferry 72, 72, 143 L. Clemens (US) 72, 72, 143 J. Thorpe (US) 70, 16-15-15

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Advertisement for Men's Health magazine featuring a man's face and the text 'Shaken, not stirred' and 'YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SOPHISTICATED Men's Health'.

Advertisement for a book or guide with the title 'Shaken, not stirred' and 'YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SOPHISTICATED Men's Health'.

Advertisement for a book or guide with the title 'Shaken, not stirred' and 'YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SOPHISTICATED Men's Health'.

Advertisement for the 1996-7 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL, featuring the text 'Tickets available for various clubs' and 'BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 3355'.

Doncaster with TV form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 12.30 Derby Flight, 12.50 Pursey).

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 12.20 B.C. BUREAU AUCTION MAREM STAKES (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like STERNAL, BUREAU, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 12.50 B.C. BUREAU AUCTION MAREM STAKES (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like ARNOLD, WINDY, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 1.20 TOTTENHAM CHAMPIONSHIP HANDICAP (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like TOTTENHAM, CHAMPIONSHIP, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 1.50 CHESTER APPEAL HANDICAP (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like CHESTER, APPEAL, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 2.25 WENTWORTH STAKES (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like WENTWORTH, STAKES, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 2.55 CO-OPERATIVE BANK GELLEY STAKES (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like CO-OPERATIVE, BANK, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 3.30 TOTTENHAM CHAMPIONSHIP HANDICAP (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like TOTTENHAM, CHAMPIONSHIP, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 4.05 DONCASTER BRANDBRAND STAKES (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like DONCASTER, BRANDBRAND, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 4.40 DONCASTER BRANDBRAND STAKES (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like DONCASTER, BRANDBRAND, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 5.05 DONCASTER BRANDBRAND STAKES (2000) 2YO (m) 12/11. Lists horses like DONCASTER, BRANDBRAND, etc.

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS ON PAGE 20

Racing

Kutta to prove a snip in November Handicap

Chris Hawkins. UNLESS the handicapper has a guardian angel, and it must be said most of them do, Kutta should win this afternoon's Tote November Handicap at Doncaster pulling the proverbial milkcart.

That I am going to ignore the dictum. Kutta had previously run a tremendous race on a belated seasonal reappearance when dead-heating under 100 pounds for the Newbury Autumn Cup, showing fighting qualities that will stand him in good stead if and when the challengers materialise.

Wincanton (N.H.) with form for televised races

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.05 CHESTER PARCEL, 1.35 THE CANTON).

Channel 4

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 3.10 RAGBORN BEEB HANDICAP CHASE).

Channel 4

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 3.45 TAMPSPOT ELITE HURDLE).

Channel 4

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 4.15 WEATHERLY STARS OF TOMORROW).

Channel 4

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 2.35 WEST COAST HANDICAP HURDLE).

Channel 4

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.10 MERRY HUNTERS TELEGRAMS HANDICAP CHASE).

Uttoxeter (N.H.)

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.25 SERRANO, 1.55 GREEN GRASS DESERT).

Newcastle (N.H.)

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.00 FORTUNAL HANDICAP, 1.30 SUTTON'S HANDICAP).

Chepstow with TV form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.15 NEWCASTLE GENERAL, 1.45 JAY RIDER).

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 1.15 NEWCASTLE GENERAL. Lists horses like NEWCASTLE GENERAL, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 1.45 JAY RIDER. Lists horses like JAY RIDER, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 2.15 MERRY HUNTERS TELEGRAMS HANDICAP CHASE. Lists horses like MERRY HUNTERS, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 3.25 STAYERS HANDICAP HURDLE. Lists horses like STAYERS, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 3.55 HURDLE HANDICAP HURDLE. Lists horses like HURDLE, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 4.10 MERRY HUNTERS TELEGRAMS HANDICAP CHASE. Lists horses like MERRY HUNTERS, etc.

Drawn No. afterwards, unless stated otherwise. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last race.

Table for 4.40 MERRY HUNTERS TELEGRAMS HANDICAP CHASE. Lists horses like MERRY HUNTERS, etc.

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Table for 6.10 MERRY HUNTERS TELEGRAMS HANDICAP CHASE. Lists horses like MERRY HUNTERS, etc.

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Table for 6.40 MERRY HUNTERS TELEGRAMS HANDICAP CHASE. Lists horses like MERRY HUNTERS, etc.

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS ON PAGE 20

Saeed's title RACELINE 0930 168. DONCASTER CHEPSTOW WINCANTON UTTOXETER SANDOWN NEWCASTLE

SOCCER: THE WORLD CUP QUALIFYING ROUND

England and Wales both opt for likely lads and hope their choices will prove to be captains of industry

Adams unmasked as the strong, silent type

David Lacey in Tbilisi hears the coach name a skipper but keep his own counsel

TONY ADAMS will captain England against Georgia in their World Cup qualifying match here today because Glenn Hoddie, as he has already shown with Paul Gascoigne, believes that people can change. If, at the end of a bizarre nine days, the England coach's faith in moving mountains is rewarded the Caucasus may be about to witness a tremor of Alpine proportions.

So unless the team hotel springs an overnight leak to a tabloid, speculation about Hoddie's most important England selection yet will remain a matter of speculation until shortly before kick-off. All that can be said at the moment is that Ian Wright looks a slightly better call than Les Ferdinand, with Matthew Le Tissier more than a faint gleam in Hoddie's eye.

I'm trying to lead by example. I've already said to the players at Arsenal that they're not going to get verbal kicks up the arse from me like I used to give them. I just want the players to be looking at me and seeing that I'm giving 100 per cent for the team. I'll be running, I'll be heading and I'll be kicking the ball both for me and for them.



Captain sensible... Adams displays the skipper's armband after training NEAL SIMPSON

Secret vote puts Jones in power

Martin Thorpe in Eindhoven

BOBBY GOULD was ready for the criticism. "Many people back home will be saying this is a sad day for football." He had just revealed the new captain of Wales: Vinnie Jones.

really know what it is at the moment. It's got to be the proudest day of my career. It's hard to explain the pride of your fellow pros in a secret ballot wanting you to be their leader.



Jones... Mr Motivator

England survive flight from hell

CHELSEA'S defender Michael Duberry snatched an 81st-minute winner as England Under-21 beat their Georgia counterparts 1-0 in Batumi yesterday, after the side had to endure a 30-minute nightmare flight on a plane that would have failed European safety standards.

The England players buried their heads in their tracksuits to try and cut off the stench in the cabin from petrol fumes, while seat belts were missing and several seats were broken.

I don't think a draw will be a disaster but we're looking to win, Hoddie added. "They aren't playing and if we can take a three-point lead into our match against them at Wembley in February that would be an important psychological advantage."

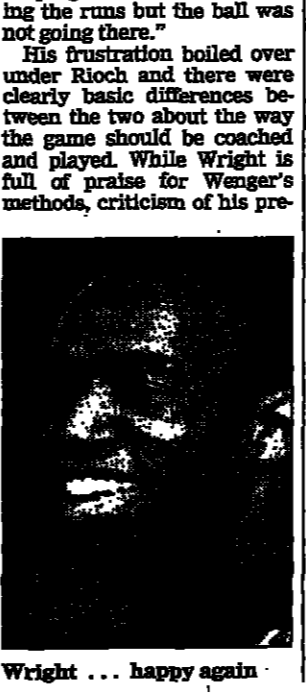
Wright put on right road the Wenger way

David Lacey hears the Arsenal stiker put his renewed hopes of an England place down to a breath of fresh air at Highbury

SOME believe Ian Wright to be English football's most natural goalscorer since Jimmy Greaves. He has scored more than 150 times for Arsenal and with 13 goals this season is the Premier-league's joint leading marksman alongside Fabrizio

Even if he does not make Glenn Hoddie's starting lineup for the World Cup qualifier in Georgia today he is virtually guaranteed a place on the bench.

well now as he has ever done. His prolific record speaks for itself and his first touch, which in the past has been exposed at international level, is impressive. His instant control before scoring the first of his two goals at Blackburn a month ago could not have been bettered.



Wright... happy again

decessor, by implication, lingers on. "The tension has definitely been taken out of the dressing room," he reflected. "Everybody knows that what was there before was not the best relationship. There was a lot of tension. It just got a bit too regimented sometimes; now it's more relaxed."

do. It doesn't need to be done with a whip and a chair. They're composed, calm and relaxed about things."

Gascoigne out for four

PAUL GASCOIGNE will play no more European games for Rangers this season. Yesterday UEFA gave the England midfielder a four-match suspension for being sent off when he kicked the Ajax defender Winston Bogarde in a 4-1 Champions League defeat in Amsterdam last month.

Group Eight: Republic of Ireland v Iceland

CHARLIE STUART in Dublin ROY KEANE, the Republic of Ireland's prodigal son, will be asked to fill a more versatile role, forging forward from central defence, against Iceland in tomorrow's crucial World Cup qualifier at Lansdowne Road.

Group Nine: Germany v Northern Ireland

MICHAEL WALKER in Nuremberg IT MAY be difficult to believe, but Northern Ireland have not lost to Germany for 19 years. The scoreline in Cologne in 1977 was 5-0 but on the four occasions the sides have met since, Northern Ireland have won twice and two games have been drawn.

Group Four: Scotland v Sweden

PATRICK GLENN SCOTLAND, having failed to persuade FIFA to overturn their decision on Gary McAllister's one-match suspension, will have to adopt Plan B for tomorrow's potentially decisive World Cup tie at Ibrox.

Optimistic Hamilton hopes history will inspire his side

Optimism is also the feeling of Jürgen Klinsmann, Germany's captain, even though six regulars are injured.

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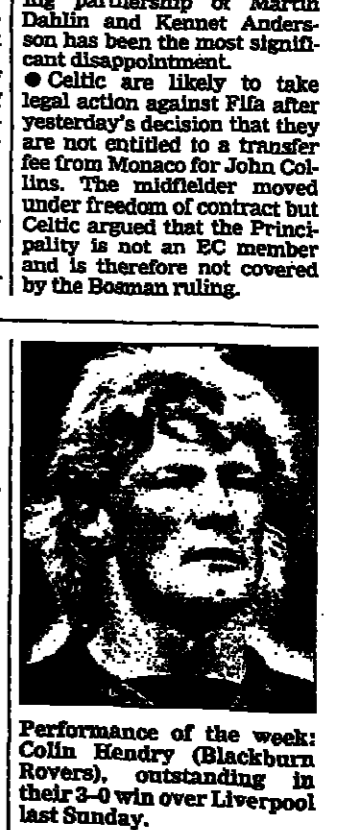
Scots' plea for McAllister fails

Blackburn and Paul Lambert of Borussia Dortmund. Lambert, who has played well in a defensive midfield role since moving to Germany this season, probably has the edge on McKinlay, even though he has only four caps to the Blackburn man's 18.

Brown also has a selection dilemma in attack, where Bolton's John McGlinlay, Darren Jackson of Hibernian and Billy Dodds of Aberdeen contest two places. McGlinlay has scored three times for Scotland while Jackson broke his international duck in the last match in Latvia. Dodds has scored 17 goals for his club but McGlinlay, in fine form for Bolton, may have the edge with either of the others as his starting partner.

A N Other

HE may now be remembered as a famous echo, but for the bulk of his playing career he epitomised the pragmatic qualities of the team whose manager's success he shared.



Performance of the week: Colin Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), outstanding in their 3-0 win over Liverpool last Sunday.

سكيا من الامل

Soccer

Gould gaffe inflates Vinnie

Soccer Diary

Robert Pryce

OF COURSE Glenn Hoddie should have picked Paul Gascoigne, whatever he is alleged to have done. A national team manager is mandated to put the best available team, and he should not be influenced by the way his players have been performing in the area of role-modelling. But that is no excuse for Bobby Gould. Vinnie Jones, family man, patriot, military historian, marine biologist, may serve as a role model for a certain kind of child, but he should never be made captain of Wales. After receiving a dozen red cards, after prematurely ending the careers of one young man and threatening the end of several others, after consistently failing to show that he has learned from his mistakes, or indeed that he has learned anything, Jones ought to be disqualified from any leadership role with any team. By endorsing the players' choice and making Jones captain Gould has licensed intimidation and discipline that he should have eradicated from the team. And worse, he has fed Jones's indelicately inflated opinion of himself, the extraordinary delusion that he is actually one of the Premiership's star players. The Philips stadium atindhoven contains a Toys R Us. Given a gift certificate and a free return of the store, the Welsh team would presumably have chosen an Action Man — for the impressive musculature, the stiff articulation and the lack of any substance between the ears.

THE Irish have known for some time that FIFA required them all to have passports before the Iceland game. Jason McAteer finally got his yesterday, but then according to one of his team-mates he is just a little bit slow.

The team-mate recalls a visit to a pizza restaurant during the World Cup in the United States. When the waitress brought McAteer's order she asked whether he'd like it cut into four or eight pieces. "I'm not that hungry like," said the midfielder. "I'll just have the four."

IT'S not easy getting to see Newcastle United these days. You need a season ticket to get into St James' Park and you have to be accompanied by a child under 16 if you want to catch the live closed-circuit screening at the Odeon in Northumberland Street.

Only once has the rule been circumvented. "I had a phone call from a foreign gentleman who said he'd travelled miles and could he see the game," the Odeon's general manager Peter Talbot told the Evening Chronicle this week. "I told him it was impossible unless he was with a child."

"He asked if he could get in if he brought his son, and I said yes. "When he turned up at the door he was about 80 years old and his son was a middle-aged businessman. We had to admit defeat and let him in."

MANCHESTER CITY counted more ridicule on Thursday when they brought out their 1997 calendar. And, yes, they've done it again. September's picture is of Steve Coppell.

THE BIG FIGHT



The evil eyes... Mike Tyson will be his customary mean and menacing self as he faces Evander Holyfield in tonight's title fight PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Tyson invokes hot gospel

As the gaudy fancy descend on Las Vegas Frank Keating finds the champion and his challenger sharing a belief in the Almighty

THERE is a quandary for the good Lord here tonight. It may not be His sort of town, but He has been summoned for duty with the bucket and sponge to attend both corners when the opening bell's freedom clangs for world heavyweight boxing at the MGM Grand. With the certainty of a reformed convert the champion, Mike Tyson, claims God is on his side. "Praise the Lord and the prophet Muhammad. He will guide and instruct me to get the job over quickly," he says in his menacing mumble of certitude.

The challenger, Evander Holyfield, is more articulately proselytising but just as definite. "People are saying 'Hey, this man believes in God, so let's see what God can do for him against Tyson.' And when I win they will say, 'I guess there really is a God.' So in one night I will have led a whole host of those people to an everlasting life."

The two fighters gave forth as they sat, brown-studied and furrow-browed, flanking



Holyfield... defiant

their promoter, the hair-raising Don King with his by-heart book of quotations. On the face of it, it was an unholy trinity. Tyson wore a knitted red bobble-cap, distractedly sucked his fingernails, examined his famous fists and occasionally sniggered privately. Holyfield stared into the distance, elegant hands fingering the scar tissue around the eyebrows of his chiselled face.

King rovingly hollered hot-gospel impressions at the idea that God was talking sides — as if He had not got His work cut out in Africa, Bosnia and Belfast, let alone in this desperate desert G-morrah. "This oasis of outstretched palms," as Reg Gutteridge memorably described it.

King of the frisian frizz then brought the prayer-meeting down to earth. This contest should have taken place five years ago. It was postponed when Tyson was jailed for rape. "Finally" is King's label for this fight. "Finally the epic match is made. As the great Will proclaimed: 'No lie can live forever.' And the good Victor Hugo added: 'There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come.' Hallelujah, the MGM lion is roaring..." And so on and so on.

I fancy God will not be diverted from serious matters for too long. Holyfield, at 34, is older by four important years. He is a decent and appealingly defiant man. Too defiant, for he will not back off. He might not have time to. He can fight all right, and with a pride that scorns the easy route out via the floor and the stretcher.

But if his counter-punches, more clustering stinging than one-shot concussive, do not immediately give the relentlessly swarming and

cruel champion, with his left uppercut and jackhammer overhand right, serious pause for thought, then in no time it will surely be prostration, the closing hymn and Amen.

Holyfield's hope, apart from prayer, is that Tyson has not been in a proper fist-fight for five years. How will he cope if he is smacked full in the face? Since prison, not one of four flaccid opponents has laid a glove on him. Frank Bruno, who had longingly threatened to knock Tyson into King's ring-side lap, was described in the local paper yesterday as "an intimidated charlatan".

Three hardened observers with no tickets to sell offered the gam as the gaudy fancy gathered in town. Muhammad Ali's trainer Angelo Dundee forecasts "a short awesome bang-bang fight, if

Tyson misses a shot watch how he weathers a counter of velocity and that will tell you the story at once". Dundee's one-time corner partner Dr Ferdie Pacheco agrees. "It might just be one round, but it will be savage, an explosion, two iron-clad warriors bouncing bombs. It may be too late for Evander, but it's a long time since Tyson felt a punch."

Emmanuel Steward, the legendary trainer, concurs. "It will be short and ugly, another Hagler v Hearns."

Gambling men are less gruesomely dramatic. Holyfield remains 15-1 against. "I am on a mission," he says, "to convert the atheists. Everyone loves a winner and they will then know how good God has been to me."

There will be three heavyweight champions tonight. Tyson defends his World Boxing Association title and Michael Moorer defends his International Boxing Federation version against the South

African Francois Botha, who was full of strut yesterday and weighed down by a round stomach and an H Samuel window of gold bracelets and necklaces that would have made Cecil Rhodes proud.

Henry Akinwande, meanwhile, defends his World Boxing Organisation title against Alex Zolkin. No matter that the Russian-born Zolkin has put in all his seven years fighting in North America, nor that the US-based Akinwande was born and raised in London by Nigerian parents — in "Dull-witch, old England," as King puts it.

"Tell us, you mad Russian from the former evil empire, what your Mother Russia is gonna do to help you against this jungle fighter, my Henry, my Zulu warrior armed with his spear and loincloth who don't take no prisoners, no sirree?"

His Royal Hairness is enough to drive any sane man to religion.

Benn snub angers Collins

NIGEL BENN, not for the first time, ignored a "head-to-head" pre-fight press conference yesterday. Due back by private jet from his training base in Tenerife, he failed to keep his lunchtime rendezvous with Steve Collins, whom he challenges for the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title at Manchester's Nynex Arena tonight.

Collins, who beat Benn in curious fashion four months ago when the 32-year-old Londoner retired with a twisted ankle after taking a knock-down in the fourth round, was angry at Benn's non-appearance.

"We are professional boxers and should be setting standards. The public pays

our wages and deserves better than this," said the Dubliner. "Anyway his best days are definitely behind him. I'll knock him out this time."

Benn, dethroned as WBC champion by South Africa's Sugar Ray Leonard last March, could be fined for his non-appearance yesterday. "I have been down this road at least four or five times," sighed the promoter Frank Warren. "Will I dock any of his money? Let's see what happens after the fight."

On the same Nynex bill Sheffield's "Prince" Naseem Hamed makes his fourth defence of the WBO featherweight title against the undefeated Remigio Molina of Argentina and

Enley Bingham faces the WBO light-middleweight champion, Ronald Wright of the United States.

Molina is unbeaten in more than 20 fights but is unlikely to have met anyone of Hamed's bizarre talents. For his part, Hamed will be anxious to give a better performance than in his previous fight, when he was taken to the 11th round and shaken several times by another unheralded Latin-American fighter, Manuel Medina.

Warren is negotiating for Hamed to challenge for the IBF title held by the American Tom Johnson and there is also talk of a big-money meeting with the formidable Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera.

Cricket

No leniency on Giddins drugs ban

Mike Selvey

ED GIDDINS, the former Sussex pace bowler who was given a 19-month suspension after failing a random-drugs test last season, had his appeal rejected by a hearing at Lord's yesterday.

The 25-year-old England A bowler will remain suspended until April 1998 after testing positive for cocaine during Sussex's match with Kent at Tunbridge Wells in May.

He had hoped to have the sentence reduced by the Cricket Council's five-man appeals committee. Instead, after a hearing that lasted 2½ hours, the committee, chaired by Desmond Ferrett QC, sent out what was clearly intended to be a strong message to potential drug users — recreational or otherwise — within the game.

The panel have carefully listened to what they consider to be sensible arguments addressed to them by both parties," said Ferrett in a statement. "They have at length discussed the matter both with regard to the interests of Ed Giddins and the interests of cricket, but confidently arrived at the conclusion that the appeal must be dismissed and the sentence confirmed. Hitherto, the committee had

appeared to be something of a soft option, having halved Alan Lamb's fine for ball-tampering allegations four years ago and last summer overturning the £2,000 fine imposed on Ray Illingworth, then chairman of selectors, for newspaper comments in the wake of the Devon Malcolm row.

Giddins, represented by David Pannick QC, might have been confident of similar leniency. "I was appealing against the harshness of the sentence, against losing my livelihood for the best part of two years," he said yesterday. "It was something I had to do, to find out whether they would listen to what I had to say and reduce it."

However, his original line of defence — that he took the drug inadvertently — was not repeated at yesterday's hearing and the committee may have been mindful of the quantity of the drug detected, believed to be substantial and not necessarily consistent with recreational use many hours before the test.

Giddins confessed himself "very, very disappointed and upset". Sacked by Sussex on August 20, immediately following the sentence and with the cricket world closed ranks, he has been unable to find a playing or coaching position abroad this winter. Instead he will be selling Christmas trees in South London.

Tour match: South Australia v England A

Battling batting averts disaster

Andy Wilson in Adelaide

IT WAS a worrying day for England A, but not the disaster that at one stage it threatened to be yesterday. A fifth-wicket stand of 108 between Mark Butcher and Craig White, followed by some pinky tail-end resistance, allowed the tourists to recover from 46 for four to 232 for nine against South Australia.

But that is not much to defend on a pitch which, after losing its early moisture, offered little to either pace or spin. The coach Mike Gatting admitted as much, describing some of the dismissals as "irresponsible".

South Australia made three changes from the team defeated in a 50-over match on Wednesday and two of the new selections, Jason Gillespie and Mark Harris, did the early damage.

Harris, a tall, 22-year-old left-armner returning from a back injury, bowled a full length and swung the ball into England's right-hand batsmen, although the first two of his four victims, Michael Vaughan and Adam Hobbins, went drivings looney at balls slanted across them — Vaughan to the third delivery he faced.

As Vaughan's Yorkshire team-mate Anthony McGrath also followed a wide one, this time from the medium pace of Greg Blewett, the case against Hobbins' decision to bat first was not conclusive. It would have been strengthened, however, had Butcher not been dropped at first slip off Harris on 83 for four. Four men out was Ovals

Shah, who could only parry a fierce short ball from Gillespie to second slip. Gillespie was the joint leading wicket-taker in the Sheffield Shield last season with 46, a crucial factor in the Redbacks' success. It was easy to see why, especially in a superb second over after lunch.

Yet Butcher and White survived, allowed the tourists to recover from 46 for four to 232 for nine against South Australia. But that is not much to defend on a pitch which, after losing its early moisture, offered little to either pace or spin. The coach Mike Gatting admitted as much, describing some of the dismissals as "irresponsible".

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Tourists trip on Gilchrist ton

DAM GILCHRIST scored 108 not out for Western Australia on the first day of their match against the West Indians in Perth yesterday. Gilchrist, the wicketkeeper who replaced the injured Ian Healy during Australia's tour to India, hit 14 fours and three

sixes in his side's 293 for six declared. Sanath Jayasuriya's three for 15 led Sri Lanka to a 75-run victory over Pakistan in the Singer Champions Trophy in Sharjah. Sri Lanka made 206 and then skittled Pakistan for 131.

Table with cricket scores for England A and South Australia. Includes columns for batsmen, runs, and bowlers.

Advertisement for Classic Cars featuring a black and white image of a classic car and the text 'a Classic tale of love and hate... Feed your obsession'. Includes a small image of a Speed Kings magazine cover.



New man in the hot seat De Glanville speaks his mind 20



What hope for Holyfield? Tyson walks tall in Las Vegas 23

The Guardian Sport

Stress drives Coppel from Maine Road

Ian Ross

MANCHESTER City renewed their links with unrest, uncertainty and crisis yesterday when Steve Coppel, their manager of 33 days, resigned on medical grounds and cited the pressures of modern football. Though the 41-year-old's carefully worded resignation statement posed more questions than it answered, it is clear the problems that precipitated Coppel's departure were affecting him before he agreed to become the First Division club's eighth manager in a decade. "Since my appointment this has completely overwhelmed me to such an extent that I cannot function in the job the way I would like to," he said. Coppel was appointed on October 7 - six weeks after Alan Ball resigned - and his arrival brought to an end the Maine Road club's search for a manager that had produced rejections from George Graham, Dave Bassett and Sheffield United on behalf of Howard Kendall. Manchester City's chairman Francis Lee has been so

shaken by the week's events that he will not look for a new manager immediately. Instead, he has installed Phil Neal, Coppel's assistant who arrived from Cardiff City. "Phil will be in charge for the foreseeable future and if he starts winning games he could make the job his own. I'm sure he will relish the challenge and get on with it." Coppel, who presided over two wins in his six-game spell, conceded that he felt embarrassed. "I would like to apologise, first and foremost, to Francis Lee and his board who have done everything in their power to help me," he said. "This is the hardest thing I have ever had to do and I can only say the decision I have made is an honest one made in the best interests of the club and myself." Lee spent most of this week trying to convince Coppel to see the job through. However, his offer of a rest cure was rejected out of hand and the die was cast on Thursday when Coppel announced he wished to convene a press conference for yesterday. "I first knew about all this on Sunday evening when Steve called me and said he must see me," said Lee. "He

said he wasn't feeling very well. He came to my house on the Monday morning. I told him to take a break and to have a week off to think about things. He said 'no'. "He was adamant all week long that he wanted to get away from it all." Although Lee was sympathetic, his demeanour was that of a man who had been let down. "There is pressure in managing anything but that sort of pressure does not come along in three or four weeks," he claimed. "He will be a relieved lad today, will Steve. I'm just glad he's going to get himself sorted out because that's the most important thing. "We've had a few sad days at this club recently. It's all very frustrating but we must soldier on." During his stay Coppel signed Eddie McGoldrick from Arsenal for £200,000 and took Simon Rodger on loan from Crystal Palace but was unable to turn things round quickly for a club with estimated debts of £20 million. City lie 17th in the table, 18 points adrift of the leaders Bolton.

Main section, page 3



Where shots on target are usually lethal

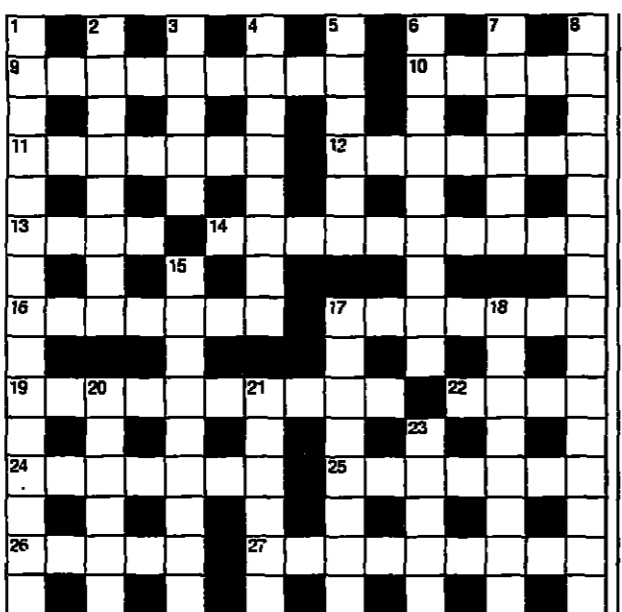


David Lacey

WHEN England last played in Tbilisi, 10 years ago, somebody asked Don Howe what was the best thing to buy there. "Airline tickets," replied Bobby Robson's assistant without the glimmer of a smile. Not that Howe was feeling particularly chipper at the time. On the eve of England's departure, having learned that Terry Venables was being sounded out in Barcelona to replace him as the Arsenal manager, he had handed in his notice. In the event, George Graham took over at Highbury and Howe later became Venables's coach with the England squad. Little in football ever stays the same for long. Not in Tbilisi, either, at least not now. As the capital of one of the Soviet Union's more reluctant components it had a dusty elegance. And the Georgians are a handsome people. But whereas in 1986 any long faces among the populace might have been put down to Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to check drunkenness by banning the sale of vodka, any present air of despondency follows civil war and a collapsing infrastructure that is only just starting to pull round. The Red Army was in the streets 10 years ago. It has been back to Georgia since, uninvited. Now the soldiers belong to the United Nations, a protecting force, which still heightens the air of abnormality about the place. At least a home win today will bring more genuine Georgian cheer than it would have done then. England could not understand why the Soviet team ran out to such a muted reception: they were even more bewildered when it became obvious that the crowd were on their side. The explanation was, of course, that with the exception of Aleksandr Chivadze the Dynamo Tbilisi players, the "home" team were as foreign as the visitors: a mixture, in the main, of Russians and Ukrainians. England's victory, achieved by Chris Wad-

die's lone goal after Chivadze had missed a penalty, was highly popular. For Robson, the principal significance of the match was the performance of Peter Beardsley and the immediate evidence of his understanding with Gary Lineker. This was where the most prolific attacking combination in England's recent history was formed. Up to them Mark Hateley had maintained the tradition of tall, strong English centre-forwards, and it was only when Robson reunited Beardsley with Lineker against Poland in Monterrey that the team began to make progress in the 1986 World Cup finals. Robson learned in Tbilisi that a medium-sized attacker with plenty of pace and good skills will be more likely to outwit international defenders who know their stuff than an orthodox target man. Glenn Hoddie, who played in that match, may also be reminded of this truth, though in a different way. "Teams from this part of the world all have one thing in common," observed Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, last weekend. "They're all very quick. They have small players who are adept at finding spaces and darting into them." Hamilton was speaking with the authority of someone who had already lost 1-0 at home to the Ukraine. Remembering how easily Curliam and Nowak have opened up Hoddie's defence for Moldova and Poland, it is easy to believe that Nemsadze, Kinkladze and Gogichashvili will enjoy themselves today, much as Beardsley did a decade ago. The fact that Beardsley, at 35, is still a rare type among English footballers is surely a measure of how slow our game has been to relearn its own lesson. Paul Gascoigne and Teddy Sheringham have the sort of skill Hamilton was talking about, but they do not have the speed to go with it. ENGLAND may win again in Tbilisi. Nothing can be considered impossible in the place where Peter Shilton managed to get in without a passport, having left his at home. While the matter was being sorted out interminably, somebody suggested it might be quicker to take Shilton out on the tarmac and fire a few shots at him, just to prove he was who he said he was. You wouldn't say things like that in Tbilisi now, not even for a laugh.

Guardian COLLINS Prize Crossword No 20,806

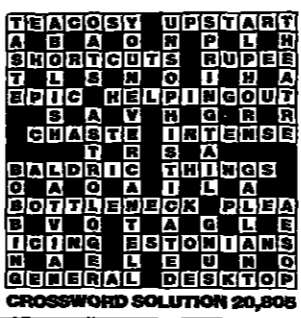


A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,806, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday November 18.

Name Address

Tick here if you do not wish to receive further information from the Guardian Media Group or other companies screened by us

- 27 Note setting with shoulder decoration (9)
20 see 17ac.
21 Plenty of dogs with lead missing (6)
23 Exercise - one needs a bit (5)
1 English heat, wet, or scarf? It can be unreliable (7, 9)
2 Quiet - maybe a little bit (8)
3,7 He once dubsiously tricked a gun barrel maker (5, 6)
4 Graphic blocks of beasts head to head (3-9)
5 Hound black-bird (5)
6 A long coat designed to be multilateral (9)
7 see 3
8 Thieves fix capitals of companies: energy, communications, utilities, etc? Often they seem to! (5, 10)
15 Boot's expendable weight? (5, 4)
17 Welsh town and city quietened by Megan, not Paul (8)
18 'A flower parting no more' - Masefield perhaps? (5)



- Set by Paul
Across
9 Perhaps able to speak and add detail (9)
10 Worn by a large number in church (5)
11 Add cooked mice with undue respect (7)
12 Wrestle beast away from grape fruit (7)
13 Scratch when using acid, and so on to the hospital (4)
14 Meets here, where people blaspheme pocketing nothing? (4-6)
15 Filthy hole - Ready? Jump in! (4-3)
17, 20 Bird, the fool, one going into space? (7, 6)
19 Actor's stock-in-trade is theology, saucy love, and rage (10)
22 Skirt that sounds like a tie? (4)
24 Composed coda with rit. where flow is vital (7)
25 Middle-Eastern sari worn by priest (7)
26 Neat and direct (5)

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City slump ... Coppel becomes the second manager to resign the Maine Road club's job this season

'The hardest thing I've ever had to do'

Yesterday's statement by Steve Coppel

"FOR the last 18 months I've wanted to manage a football club, so when I was given the job as manager at Manchester City I was proud, excited and delighted. I was also determined to be a success and return the club to its rightful place in the Premiership. "I'm not ashamed to admit that I have suffered for some time from huge pressure I have imposed upon myself and since my appointment this has completely overwhelmed me to such an extent that I cannot function in the job the way I would like to. "As this situation is affecting my well-being, I have asked Francis Lee to relieve me of my obligation to manage the club on medical advice. I am therefore resigning for personal reasons. "I'm extremely embarrassed by the situation and I would like to apologise first and foremost to Francis Lee and his board, who have done everything in their power to help me. "Francis has been particularly understanding and I would like to thank him for that. "I would also like to thank and wish good luck to the players and staff. Their attitude and approach has been superb over the last six games, and will hold them in good stead for the coming months. "Finally I would like to say sorry to the supporters of Manchester City who have, to a person, made me feel very welcome. It is obviously not the way I intended events would happen. "This is the hardest thing I have ever had to do and I can only say the decision I have made is an honest one made in the best interests of the club and myself."

Adams and Jones called to lead by bad example

ENGLAND and Wales resolved their captaincy problems yesterday by appointing a recovering alcoholic and serial red-card collector to lead them in their World Cup qualifiers in Georgia and Holland today. While Tony Adams's appointment had been predicted, the choice of the Watford-born Vinnie Jones to skipper Wales was a surprise. "It's the proudest day of my life," said Jones, who was chosen by his team-mates despite a disciplinary record that includes 12 red cards. "We had a democratic vote among the players and they chose Vinnie," said the Wales manager Bobby Gould.

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